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# **PRECIS, NOTES, AND SUMMARIES**

**No. 50**



An Author who is accustomed to receiving a fee of two shillings per word struggling against a tendency to prolixity in a telegram.

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# PRECIS NOTES, & SUMMARIES

Edited by  
RICHARD WILSON B.A. D.Litt.

*"I will make a *pries* of it in my note-book"*  
SIR HUGH EVANS

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## P R E F A C E

PRÉCIS-WRITING and the making of summaries is not a mere subject for competitive examinations, but an exercise of the utmost possible mental and cultural value. It provides training in clear thinking, intellectual grasp and insight, orderly construction, and succinct expression.

This book embodies an attempt to deal with this all-important subject in an interesting and systematic manner, and to connect it with many school and social activities—reading, composition, writing telegrams and post-cards, speaking, debating, attendance at meetings, listening to sermons, and correspondence.

Copious Exercises of very varied form are provided, and the pupil who has worked through this book need fear no foe in the form of an English examiner; while, better still, he will feel mentally refreshed and invigorated.

Many of the Examples and Exercises have been drawn from the papers set at public examinations, in which précis-writing is becoming more and more important. It is worth noting that the précis tests in some of these examinations are now more literary and less commercial.

Apart from its purely educational purpose, this volume, in conjunction with *English, Spoken and Written—Part IV.* (No. 4 of this Series), will provide complete preparation in "English Language" for Matriculation and Civil Service Examinations.

The passage set for précis on page 91 is reprinted by permission of the authorities of the University of London.



## CONTENTS

I. THE QUINTESSENCE OF MEANING . . . . .	9
II. ESSENTIAL AND INESSENTIAL . . . . .	21
III. THE REPORTER . . . . .	27
IV. CLOSE PRÉCIS . . . . .	50
V. MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISES . . . . .	61
VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND PRÉCIS. . . . .	111
VII. SUMMARIZING LITERATURE . . . . .	117
VIII. ON MAKING NOTES . . . . .	137
IX. MORE MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISES . . . . .	161

## THE PURSUIT OF THE ESSENTIAL

“John Dixon struck a match to see if there was  
any petrol in his tank. There was.  
Aged 56.”

## A BRIDGE COURTSHIP

*He.* Hearts.  
*She.* Double.  
*He.* Diamonds.  
*She.* Content.

*Punch.*

# PRECIS, NOTES, AND SUMMARIES

## CHAPTER I.—THE QUINTESSENCE OF MEANING

§ 1. **A Study of Words.**—A *precise* speaker speaks to the point, avoiding unnecessary words and phrases, especially those which he would call “ mere embellishments.” We sometimes use the adjective “ *precise* ” to express a mild dislike, probably because most of us wander so often from the point.

To do anything with *precision* is to do it exactly, without any bungling or waste of effort. We should take it as a compliment if some one said we usually acted in this way.

The *precisian* is regarded with distinct dislike, perhaps because he overdoes his precision, which is good but not the whole of goodness. The dislike of the “ *precisian* ” is partly due to the fact that the word has come to be applied to one who in religious matters follows the letter rather than the spirit, and occasionally strains at a gnat to swallow a camel.

A person who makes a *précis* of a letter, speech, sermon, essay, article, book, or part of a book, takes out and expresses shortly the essential thoughts and facts.

In ordinary life there seems to be little, if any, difference in meaning between the word *précis* and

*summary*, and many people prefer to use the latter word, which is English, under all circumstances. The term "*précis*" appears to have become a school or examination word, though it is also used in the Civil Service; but the ordinary British business manager seems to prefer "*summary*."

Some people think that a *précis* adheres more closely to the original than a *summary*, is fuller, and, though succinct, has some feeling for style. A *summary*, they say, is balder or more naked, a mere skeleton standing half-way between *précis* and *notes*, which are baldest of all.

A *précis* or a *summary* must be worded in such a manner that it can be understood by another person. We usually make *notes* for our own use, and are lucky if we know what they mean some time after they have been made. The ratio of the original to *précis* may be said to be about 3 to 1; to *summary* anything between 20 to 1 and 10 to 1; to *notes* perhaps about 50 to 1.

§ 2. **The Telegram.**—We make a kind of *précis* or *summary* when we write a telegram, acting under the guidance of that most effective teacher, economy. The message must contain the maximum of exact information in the minimum of words. The name and address of the person to whom it is sent must be shortened as much as possible, as well as the message itself and the name of the sender. Consider the following example:—

William Robinson, of 15 High Street, Darlington, wishes to telegraph on Monday morning to his father at 120 Cross Way, Abingdon, to tell him that he is travelling home on the following day, and expects to arrive at Abingdon at 3.30 p.m. His message will probably run as follows:—

*Robinson, 120 Cross Way, Abingdon. Arrive to-morrow three-thirty.—William.*

If his father is expecting him, but is not certain of the

exact day and hour, the name of the sender might be omitted, but there would be no point in this, as twelve words are allowed as a minimum. The sender writes his full name and address on the back of the form, but does not pay for this.

[*N.B.*—Each of the following combinations would count as one word :—a number of figures, not more than five ; 11½ ; 123rd ; warehouse-man ; mother-in-law ; Ashton-under-Lyne ; St. Martin's ; c/o ; % ; ¼ ; won't ; can't. The charge for a telegram includes delivery within the town postal limit, or within three miles of a Head Office ; beyond that limit a charge per mile is made.]

### EXERCISE I

i. Shorten the following sentences for telegraphic purposes :—

(1) I reached here in safety at 4 p.m. after a very exhausting and unpleasant journey. Mother is already much better.

(2) Please send at once, by passenger train, 12 copies of John Masefield's book, *Sand Harker*.

(3) Mary missed the train connection at Grantham, and cannot possibly reach home before midnight. Please tell her mother without alarming her.

(4) Father has been seized with pneumonia. Come at once and help me to nurse him, for I am all alone.

(5) I cannot keep my appointment for this afternoon. Please say if to-morrow at the same hour will be convenient.

(6) We hope to arrive at six to-morrow evening, and shall require dinner before going on at about ten o'clock.

(7) We have had no letter from you to-day. Is anything wrong ? Please wire reply.

(8) John reached home safely, but had been very ill on the way. He is a little better now.

(9) Please send me the key which I left in the left-hand top drawer of the chest in my bedroom.

(10) Mary is better, but will not be able to travel for at least a week.

(11) Baby has scarlet fever, but the attack is very slight. I am writing fully to-night.



## AND SUMMARIES

13

2. Draw up the following telegrams. (Note that under some circumstances economy is not rigidly enforced.)

RECEIVER.	SENDER.	MESSAGE.
1. Mr. Samuel Lee, "Woodville," Esplanade, Brighton.	His son Thomas.	I have passed the Senior Oxford Local Examination with distinction in Mathematics and History.
2. Mrs. M'Intosh, 19 Beech Avenue, Leeds.	Her daughter Margaret.	Cousin Mary and I landed at Southampton this morning. We leave St. Pancras at 5 p.m. Please meet us.
3. Messrs. Timms & Co., Outfitters, High St., Manchester.	William Stone, 15 Woodland Way, Mill Hill, N.W.7.	Please send by passenger train a Burberry overcoat, same size as last, and pair of angling waders like those previously supplied.
4. Mr. Thomas Pinch, 45 Oak Avenue, Shipley.	An old friend named Henry Woolmer.	Heartfelt congratulations on your business success. I wish you all prosperity and happiness in your new work.
5. Miss Tabitha Masters, "The Beeches," Orpington.	Her maid-servant Emily Mordaunt.	Your spectacles cannot be found anywhere in house or garden. Shall I order a new pair to be sent on to you?
6. Master Albert Smith, Belvedere School, Altringham.	His father.	Glad to hear you have won two prizes. I am sending you a hamper of good things by passenger train.

§ 3. **The Post-card.** This form of correspondence also enforces the careful choice of essential words and phrases. It is allowable to leave out portions of sentences, provided always that the meaning is left perfectly clear, and that the message is courteous in spite of its brevity ; but if the message is short there is no necessity to cut it down in this manner. In the following message the words in brackets might be omitted :—

(We) arrived (here) safely at 3.40. (The) journey (was) very pleasant (and interesting), especially after (leaving) Leeds. (My cousin) John met us (with the car), and we had a lovely run of nine miles. (The) house stands very high in beautiful gardens, with a coppice beyond. (I fully expect we) shall have a glorious holiday. (We send) love to all (of you).—

MARY.

### EXERCISE II

Seeing that a message on a post-card is, in a sense, public property, consider the propriety of using a post-card in each of the following situations.

When you think it appropriate, write the necessary message :—

(1) You wish to order from Mr. Dabb, the fishmonger, 1½ lb. of halibut, six kippers, and two soles, and to have the last named filleted. The fish to be delivered to a certain address before twelve o'clock on a certain morning.

(2) You have just returned home after a jolly holiday at a friend's farm, and wish to thank him for his kindness.

(3) You are suddenly prevented from keeping an appointment at an office in a distant part of your town.

(3) You are going to travel from London to Edinburgh to-morrow, and wish to have a corner seat in a non-smoking (or smoking) compartment on the 2.20 train from King's Cross. (N.B.—The official to be addressed is the station-master.)

(5) You are away from your office on business, and are offered a certain price for goods. It is £20 less than the

sum you have been instructed to ask. Your customer wishes to know quickly, or you may lose the chance of selling.

**§ 4. Advertisements.**—Writers of small advertisements must also study economy, but it is better to pay a few extra pence than risk spoiling the effect of the announcement. Most papers fix a number of words for which a minimum charge is made, and there is no point in using *less* than this number of words.

Many papers are falling into a very unsightly habit of abbreviating words. The h. and c. of the house agents' announcement is permissible—indeed it is hallowed by association ; but gd. psn., refs. offd., wants sit., are merely vulgar.

### EXERCISE III

1. How could you shorten the following so as to bring it within, or just up to, a limit of eighteen words ?—

A general servant wanted ; three in family ; no young children ; liberal outings ; £30. Apply evenings 5 to 7. " Hastings House," St. Leonards.

2. In most papers announcements like the above are arranged in alphabetical order of first letters. Would it be wise to omit the "A" ? What will happen to the advertisement if it begins with the word "Wanted" ?
3. Write out advertisements for the following, and reckon the cost at twelve words for 1s. and one halfpenny per word thereafter :—

(1) For a junior clerk in a merchant's office, who must be good at figures and correspondence ; about 17 years of age and well educated. Application by letter only to Manager, Southern Supply Co., Cheapside, London, E.C.

(2) For a post as junior clerk to suit your own requirements and qualifications.

(3) For a gardener to do three hours work daily, except Saturdays, in large fruit and vegetable garden.

(4) For selling a couch, 6 feet long, walnut frame with brass castors, upholstered in tapestry, almost new, with good springs, and three cushions covered in satin. £6 or offer. On view "Acacia House," The Avenue, Beckenham. No dealers to apply.

(5) For a cook to a family of six, of whom five are at business all day. Two general servants kept. Wages £45, with allowance for dresses.

(6) For selling a pedigree Persian kitten; mother a frequent prize-winner, whose certified record will be shown. Price £3.

(7) For renting a house of six or seven rooms, with large garden, within six miles of a large town in Midlands, and not more than twenty minutes from a railway station.

4. Study newspaper trade advertisements as well as those on the hoardings, and select six which give you the fullest information in the fewest words, apart from pictures.
5. Now study pictorial advertisements, and show how pictures take the place of verbal description and provide, with or without a legend, all that the advertiser wishes to convey.
6. Select a few single coined words which form a kind of précis of the merits of certain advertised articles.
7. Coin a word for (1) a good soap; (2) a new pen; (3) a trousers-press; (4) a new type of travelling bag.

§ 5. *Jinglese*.—Mr. Alfred Jingle of *Pickwick Papers* spoke habitually in a kind of précis. The following passage contains his description of a cricket match:—

"Capital game—well played—some strokes admirable," said the stranger, as both sides crowded into the tent at the conclusion of the game.

"You have played it, sir?" inquired Mr. Wardle, who had been amused by his loquacity. "Played it? Think

I have—thousands of times—not here—West Indies—exciting thing—hot work—very.” “It must be rather a warm pursuit in such a climate,” observed Mr. Pickwick. “Warm—red-hot—scorching—glowing. Played a match once—single wicket—friend the Colonel—Sir Thomas Blazo—who should get the greatest number of runs. Won the toss—first innings—seven o’clock a.m.—six natives to look out—went in; kept in—heat intense—natives all fainted—taken away—fresh half-dozen ordered—fainted also—Blazo bowling—supported by two natives—couldn’t bowl me out—fainted too—cleared away the Colonel—wouldn’t give in—faithful attendant—Quanko Samba—last man left—bat in blisters—ball scorched brown—five hundred and seventy runs—rather exhausted—Quanko mustered up last remaining strength—bowled me out—had a bath—went to dinner.”

Study Jingle’s method with a view to finding out—  
(1) what parts of speech he retains; (2) whether he is always as brief as he wishes to be; (3) whether his meaning is always perfectly clear to you at the first reading.

#### EXERCISE IV

##### i. Translate each of the following into Jinglese:—

(1) Dr. Samuel Johnson of Dictionary fame dined one day with Goldsmith at Jack’s Coffee House in Dean Street: “Sir,” said Johnson, “these steaks are pretty little things, but a man must eat a great many of them before he is satisfied.” “Ay, but how many of these would reach to the moon?” said Goldsmith. “To the moon!” echoed Johnson. “That, sir, I fear, exceeds your calculation.” “Not at all,” said Goldsmith. “I think I could tell.” “Pray then let us hear.” “Why,” said Goldsmith slowly, edging as far as possible from Johnson, “one, if it were long enough.” “Sir, I have deserved it,” gasped Johnson.

(2) One remembers always that story of the shoes at Oxford: the rough, seamy-faced, raw-boned College Servitor stalking about, in winter season, with his shoes

worn out ; how the charitable Gentleman Commoner secretly places a new pair at his door ; and the raw-boned Servitor, lifting them, looking at them near, with his dim eyes, with what thought,—pitches them out of the window ! Wet feet, mud, frost, hunger or what you will ; but not beggary : we cannot stand beggary ! Rude stubborn self-help here ; a whole world of squalor, rudeness, confused misery and want, yet of nobleness and manfulness withal.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

(3) A Fox being caught in a trap, was glad to bargain for his neck by leaving his tail behind him ; but upon coming abroad into the world, he began to miss his tail so much that he almost wished he had died rather than come away without it. However, resolving to make the best of a bad matter, he called a meeting of the rest of the Foxes, and proposed that all should follow his example. " You have no idea," said he, " of the ease and comfort with which I now move about : I could never have believed it if I had not tried it myself ; but really, when one comes to reason it out, a tail is such an ugly, inconvenient, unnecessary appendage, that the only wonder is that, as Foxes, we could have put up with such a thing so long. I propose, therefore, my worthy brethren, that you all profit by my experience, and that all Foxes from this day forward cut off their tails." Upon this one of the oldest Foxes stepped forward, and said, " I rather think, my friend, that you would not have advised us to part with our tails, if there were any chance of recovering your own." *ÆSOP'S FABLES.*

(4) Jack once made a journey to London, a great many years since, which has furnished him with topics of conversation ever since. He saw the old king on the terrace at Windsor, who stopped, and pointed him out to one of the princesses, being probably struck with Jack's truly yeoman-like appearance. This is a favourite anecdote with him, and has no doubt had a great effect in making him a most loyal subject ever since, in spite of taxes and poor rates. He was also at Bartholomew Fair, where he had half the buttons cut off his coat ; and a gang of pickpockets, attracted by his external show of gold and silver, made a regular attempt to hustle him as he was gazing at a show ; but for once they found that they

had caught a Tartar, for Jack enacted as great wonders among the gang as Samson did among the Philistines. One of his neighbours, who had accompanied him to town, and was with him at the fair, brought back an account of his exploits, which raised the pride of the whole village ; who considered their champion as having subdued all London, and eclipsed the achievements of Friar Tuck, or even the renowned Robin Hood himself.

MARY RUSSELL MITFORD.

(5) It was not until he happened to need his scissors that the terrible fact burst upon him : Eppie had run out by herself—had perhaps fallen into the Stone-pit. Silas, shaken by the worst fear that could have befallen him, rushed out, calling, “ Eppie ! ” and ran eagerly about the unenclosed space, exploring the dry cavities into which she might have fallen, and then gazing with questioning dread at the smooth red surface of the water. The cold drops stood on his brow. How long had she been out ? There was one hope—that she had crept through the stile and got into the fields, where he habitually took her to stroll. But the grass was high in the meadow, and there was no descrying her if she were there except by a close search that would be a trespass on Mr. Osgood’s crop. Still, that misdemeanour must be committed ; and poor Silas, after peering all round the hedgerows, traversed the grass, beginning with perturbed vision to see Eppie behind every group of red sorrel, and to see her moving always farther off as he approached. The meadow was searched in vain ; and he got over the stile into the next field, looking with dying hope towards a small pond which was now reduced to its summer shallowness, so as to leave a wide margin of good adhesive mud. Here, however, sat Eppie, discoursing cheerfully to her own small boot, which she was using as a bucket to convey the water into a deep hoof-mark, while her little naked foot was planted comfortably on a cushion of olive-green mud.

GEORGE ELIOT.

2. Copy out each of the following passages, leaving a broad space between each pair of lines. Un-

derline in blue pencil those words which, taken together, show the backbone of each paragraph.

(1) Trim housemaids were hurrying backwards and forwards under the directions of a fresh, bustling land-lady; but (they were) still seizing an occasional moment to exchange a flippant word and have a rallying laugh with the group round the fire. WASHINGTON IRVING.

(2) These clear eyes of neighbour Jocelin looked on the bodily presence of King John; the very John *Sansterre*, or Lackland, who signed *Magna Charta* afterwards in Runnymead. Lackland, with a great retinue, boarded once, for the matter of a fortnight, in St. Edmondsbury Convent; daily in the very eyesight, palpable to the very fingers of our Jocelin: O Jocelin, what did he say, what did he do; how looked he, lived he;—at the very lowest, what coat or breeches had he on?

THOMAS CARLYLE.

(3) There drew he forth the brand Excalibur,  
And o'er him, drawing it, the winter moon,  
Brightening the skirts of a long cloud, ran forth  
And sparkled keen with frost against the hilt:  
For all the haft twinkled with diamond sparks,  
Myriads of topaz-lights, and jacinth-work  
Of subtlest jewellery. LORD TENNYSON.

(4) Narcissus is said to have been extremely beautiful and comely, but intolerably proud and disdainful; so that, pleased with himself and scorning the world, he led a solitary life in the woods, hunting only with a few followers, who were his professed admirers, amongst whom the nymph Echo was his constant attendant. In this method of life it was once his fate to approach a clear fountain, where he laid himself down to rest in the noonday heat, when, beholding his image in the water, he fell into such a rapture and admiration of himself that he could by no means be got away, but remained continually fixed and gazing, till at length he was turned into a flower of his own name, which appears early in the spring. FRANCIS BACON.

## CHAPTER II.—ESSENTIAL AND INESSENTIAL

§ 6. **The Meaning of "Substance."**—There is nothing which is really unnecessary or inessential in a well-written or well-spoken English sentence. Every word, phrase, and clause is used to convey and impress the author's or the speaker's meaning. This is one of the tests of good speaking and good writing.

But, as Alfred Jingle shows us, it is possible to give outline or skeleton sentences which convey mental pictures more or less distinct—to give the substance without the perfect form. Each jerky phrase calls up a partial image, which the hearer or reader fills out, defines, and provides with a background or setting in his own way. "West Indies—cricket match." Here is a blurred image compounded of semi-tropical scenes and an English pitch which a good writer would have made clearer by filling in the picture with descriptive touches. But the curt phrases give a more or less sufficient background for the strange game, a setting for the two chief actors, Jingle and the Colonel. Consider the following sentence from Gilbert White's *Selborne* in which the essential words are printed in heavy type:—

In deep **snows** I have seen the **titmouse**, while it hung with its back **downwards**, draw straws lengthwise from the **eaves** of thatched houses.

The rest of this sentence consists of words and phrases which extend the meaning of the essential words and help to define the picture. But the words in heavy type give the "substance" of the sentence.

## EXERCISE V

Transcribe each of the following sentences and underline the essential words :—

(1) A little flock of titmice came daily to pick a dinner out of my wood-pile, or the crumbs at my door, with faint, flitting, lisping notes, like the tinkling of icicles in the grass. H. D. THOREAU.

(2) My attention was first drawn by the twittering of these house-swallows, which sat motionless in a row on the bough, with their heads all one way, and by their weight pressing down the twig so that it nearly touched the water. GILBERT WHITE.

(3) "I saw a little girl crying," said the Moon. "She was crying at the wickedness of the world."

HANS ANDERSEN.

(4) For a minute or two Alice stood looking at the house, and wondering what to do next, when suddenly a footman in livery came running out of the wood.

LEWIS CARROLL.

(5) Two men are travelling together along a country road, when one of them, picking up a hatchet, cries, "See what I have found!" *Russian Fable.*

(6) I have seen him stand bareheaded—smile if you please—to a poor servant girl, while she has been inquiring of him the way to some street—in such a posture of unforced civility as neither to embarrass her in the acceptance, nor himself in the offer of it. CHARLES LAMB.

(7) He played with that child the whole day long, and they were very merry. The sky was so blue, the sun was so bright, the water was so sparkling, the leaves were so green, the flowers were so lovely, and they heard such singing-birds, and saw so many butterflies, that everything was beautiful. CHARLES DICKENS.

(8) One bright summer's afternoon, in the year of grace 1575, a tall and fair boy came lingering along Bideford Quay, in his scholar's gown, with satchel and slate in hand, watching wistfully the shipping and the sailors, till, just after he had passed the bottom of the High Street, he came opposite to one of the many taverns which looked out upon the river. CHARLES KINGSLEY.

§ 7. **The Substance of a Paragraph.**—The last sentence in the foregoing Exercise presents difficulties when we attempt to show its substance by underlining essential words. We feel that it would be better to write down a short *résumé* or précis of the long sentence which really makes a paragraph—for example:—

One summer afternoon in 1575 a young gowned scholar sauntered along Bideford Quay till he came to a certain riverside tavern.

This sentence contains twenty-one words, the original sentence sixty-four—the usual ratio for précis, as we have already agreed.

Note carefully (1) that the phrase “tall and fair boy in his scholar’s gown” becomes “young gowned scholar” in the précis, while “one of the many taverns which looked out upon the river” is rendered as “a certain riverside tavern”; (2) that the phrase “in the year of grace,” being a mere picturesque embellishment, is omitted; (3) that “watching wistfully the shipping and the sailors” is also left out because a sauntering boy would naturally be doing so.

Consider the paragraph:—

For a minute or two Alice stood looking at the house, and wondering what to do next, when suddenly a footman in livery came running out of the wood—(she considered him to be a footman because he was in livery: otherwise, judging by his face only, she would have called him a fish)—and rapped loudly at the door with his knuckles. It was opened by another footman in livery, with a round face and large eyes like a frog; and both footmen, Alice noticed, had powdered hair that curled all over their heads. She felt very curious to know what it was all about, and crept a little way out of the wood to listen.

LEWIS CARROLL.

A précis of this paragraph might run:—

While Alice looked wonderingly at the house, a liveried fish footman with powdered curls ran from the wood and

rapped loudly at the door. It was opened by a powdered frog footman. She crept nearer to listen.

Count the number of words in the original and in the précis, and if you can improve the latter, do so.

#### EXERCISE VI

Give the substance of each of the following paragraphs :—

(1) In the pleasant valleys of a country which was called Thessaly there lived a man whose name was Orpheus. Every day he made soft music with his golden harp and sung beautiful songs such as no one had ever heard before. And whenever Orpheus sang, everything came to listen to him. It was strange to watch the beasts that came and stood all round him. Cows came, and sheep, and dogs, and horses, and with them came bears and wolves ; but the wild beasts did not hurt the cows and sheep, for they forgot their old cruel ways as they heard the songs of Orpheus. The high hills listened to him also, and I think that even the clouds sailed along more gently and brightly in the sky when he sang ; and the stream which ran close to his feet made a softer noise to show how glad his music made it.

SIR G. W. COX : *Tales of the Gods and Heroes.*

(2) While engaged in the coasting trade, I fell in with many seamen who had travelled to almost every quarter of the globe, and I freely confess that my heart glowed ardently within me as they recounted their wild adventures in foreign lands. But of all the places of which they told me none captivated and charmed my imagination so much as the Coral Islands of the Southern Seas. They told me of thousands of beautiful fertile islands that had been formed by a small creature called the coral insect, where summer reigned nearly all the year round ; where the trees were laden with a constant harvest of luxuriant fruit ;

where the climate was almost perpetually delightful ; yet where, strange to say, men were wild, bloodthirsty savages, except in those favoured isles to which the gospel of our Saviour had been conveyed. These exciting accounts had so great an effect upon my mind that, when I reached the age of fifteen, I resolved to make a voyage to the South Seas.

R. M. BALLANTYNE : *The Coral Island.*

(3) I will show you the roomy workshop of Mr. Jonathan Burge, carpenter and builder, in the village of Hayslope, as it appeared on the eighteenth of June, in the year of our Lord 1799.

The afternoon sun was warm on the five workmen there, busy upon doors and window frames and wainscoting. A scent of pine-wood from a tent-like pile of planks outside the open door mingled itself with the scent of the elder-bushes, which were spreading their summer snow close to the open window opposite ; the slanting sunbeams shone through the transparent shavings that flew before the steady plane, and lit up the fine grain of the oak panelling which stood propped against the wall. On a heap of those soft shavings a rough grey shepherd dog had made himself a pleasant bed, and was lying with his nose between his forepaws, occasionally wrinkling his brows to cast a glance at the tallest of the five workmen, who was carving a shield in the centre of a wooden mantelpiece.

GEORGE ELIOT.

(4) Near the Pyramids, more wondrous and more awful than all else in the land of Egypt, there sits the lonely Sphynx. Comely the creature is, but the comeliness is not of this world. The once-worshipped beast is a deformity and a monster to this generation, and yet you can see that those lips, so thick and heavy, were fashioned according to some ancient mould of beauty, some mould of beauty now forgotten—forgotten because that Greece drew forth Cytherea from

the flashing foam of the Ægean, and in her image created new forms of beauty, and made it a law among men that the short and proudly-wreathed lip should stand for the sign and the main condition of loveliness through all generations to come. Yet still there lives on the race of those who were beautiful in the fashion of the elder world, and Christian girls of Coptic blood will look on you with the sad, serious gaze and kiss your charitable hand with the big pouting lips of the very Sphynx.      A. W. KINGLAKE.

(5) But Peace is at once the mother and the nurse of all that is good for man. War, on a sudden and at one stroke, overwhelms, extinguishes, abolishes whatever is cheerful, whatever is happy and beautiful, and pours a foul torrent of disasters on the life of mortals. Peace shines upon human affairs like the vernal sun. The fields are cultivated, the gardens bloom, the cattle are fed upon a thousand hills, new buildings arise, riches flow, pleasures smile, humanity and charity increase, arts and manufactures feel the genial warmth of encouragement, and the gains of the poor are more plentiful.      ERASMUS.

(6) It was a charming evening. Mild and bright. And even with the weight upon his mind which arose out of the immensity and uncertainty of London, Tom could not resist the captivating sense of rapid motion through the pleasant air. The four greys skimmed along, as if they liked it quite as well as Tom did ; the bugle was in as high spirits as the greys ; the coachman chimed in sometimes with his voice ; the wheels hummed cheerfully in unison ; the brass work on the harness was an orchestra of little bells ; and thus, as they went clinking, jingling, rattling smoothly on, the whole concern, from the buckles of the leaders' coupling-reins, to the handle of the hind boot, was one great instrument of music.

CHARLES DICKENS.

## CHAPTER III.—THE REPORTER

§ 8. **Direct and Indirect Narration.**—Consider the following paragraph :—

A Man who had two daughters married one to a Gardener, the other to a Potter. After a while he paid a visit to the Gardener's cottage, and asked his daughter how she was, and how it fared with her. "Very well," said she ; "we have everything that we want ; I have but one prayer, that we may have a heavy storm of rain to water our plants." Off he set to the Potter's house, and asked his other daughter how matters went with her. "There is not a thing we want," she replied ; "and I only hope this fine weather and hot sun may continue, to bake our tiles." "Alas ! " said the Father, "if you wish for fine weather, and your sister wishes for rain, which am I to pray for myself ? "

When the actual words of a speaker are reported, the writer or speaker is said to employ Direct Narration (the *Oratio Recta* of the Latins). There are three examples of this form of narration in the above story, and they are made evident to the eye by the use of "quotation marks," or "quotes," or "inverted commas," or "raised commas," which you will. If Indirect Narration (the *Oratio Obliqua* of the Latins) were employed in the above three cases the sentences would run :—

(1) She said she was very well ; that they had everything they wanted ; and that she had but one prayer, namely, that a heavy storm of rain might come to water their plants.

(2) She replied that there was not a thing they wanted, and that she only hoped the fine weather and hot sun might continue to bake their tiles.

(3) The Father, shaking his head, said that if she wished for fine weather, and her sister for rain, he did not know which he was to pray for himself.

In the making of précis and summaries it is sometimes necessary to convert *Oratio Recta* into *Oratio Obliqua*, or, as it is often called, *Reported Speech*. A writer who uses the first person may be said to employ a kind of *Oratio Recta*, also the speakers in a dialogue or drama, and in these cases no quotation marks are used. These marks are not employed in the Bible, and they are rarely missed.

### EXERCISE VII

Convert the following examples of *Oratio Recta* into *Oratio Obliqua*. [N.B.—Do not overwork the conjunction *that*.]

(1) Laurie opened the window, and croaked out as hoarsely as a raven, " Better, thank you. I've had a horrid cold, and been shut up a week."

(2) David said, " May God forbid it me that I should do this thing. Shall I drink the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy, for with the jeopardy of their lives they brought it ? "

(3) " Always talking about this box ! " said Epimetheus at last; for he had grown extremely tired of the subject. " I wish, dear Pandora, you would try to talk of something else. Come, let us go and gather some ripe figs, and eat them under the trees for our supper. And I know a vine that has the sweetest and juiciest grapes you ever tasted."

(4) " Welcome to our royal feast ! " said the king. " What is your lore ? Can you tell stories of old time, or have you the power which can read men's histories in the stars of heaven ? "

(5) " Since you love him so well, dame," said the king,

" know that you see him before you. I am Robert the Bruce."

(6) Athenè stood before him and spoke gently, and bade him have no fear.

" Perseus," she said, " he who overcomes in one trial merits thereby a sharper trial still. You have braved Polydectes, and done manfully. Dare you brave Medusa the Gorgon ? "

(7) " I will give you a rule," said her mother ; " my dear,

Just think for a moment your sister is here,  
And what would you tell her ? consider, and then,  
Though silent your tongue, you can speak with your pen."

(8) *Macbeth*. Which of you have done this ?

*Lords*. What, my good lord ?

*Macbeth*. Thou canst not say I did it : never shake  
Thy gory locks at me.

(9) He travelled along a rather dark path for some little time, without meeting anything, until at last he came to a beautiful child. So he said to the child, " What do you do here ? " And the child said, " I am always at play. Come and play with me ! "

(10) " Rightly is it called *Locusta*," he said, " because it seems to say to us, ' *Loco Sta*,' that is, ' Stay in your place.' I see that we shall not be able to finish our journey. But rise, load the mules, and let us get on as far as we can."

(11) A famous punster was asked to make a pun on the spur of the moment. " Upon what subject ? " asked the joker. " The king," answered the other. " Oh ! sir," said he, " the *king* is no *subject*."

(12) SIR,—I am a man out of all business, and would willingly turn my hand to anything for an honest livelihood. I have invented several projects for raising many millions of money without burthening the subject, but

I cannot get the Parliament to listen to me, who look upon me, forsooth, as a crack and a projector.

RALPH CROTCHET.

(13) Bridget Elia has been my housekeeper for many a long year. I have obligations to Bridget, extending beyond the period of memory. We house together, old bachelor and maid, in a sort of double singleness ; with such tolerable comfort, upon the whole, that I, for one, find in myself no sort of disposition to go out upon the mountains, with the rash king's offspring, to bewail my celibacy.

CHARLES LAMB: *Elia*.

(14) *Socrates*. Suppose, now, that a husbandman or an artisan bring some production to market. He comes at a time when there is no one to exchange with him. Is he to leave his calling and sit idle in the market-place ?

*Adeimantus*. Not at all. He will find people there who, seeing the want, undertake the office of salesmen. In well-ordered States they are commonly those who are the weakest in bodily strength, and therefore of little use for any other purpose. Their duty is to be in the market, and to give money in exchange for goods to those who desire to sell, and to take money from those who desire to buy.

(15) Portia now desired Shylock to let her look at the bond ; and when she had read it, she said, " This bond is forfeited, and by this the Jew may lawfully claim a pound of flesh, to be by him cut off nearest Antonio's heart." Then she said to Shylock, " Be merciful : take the money, and bid me tear the bond." But no mercy would the cruel Shylock show ; and he said, " By my soul I swear, there is no power in the tongue of man to alter me."—" Why then, Antonio," said Portia, " you must prepare your bosom for the knife."

(16) April 17 being Good Friday, I waited on Johnson as usual. I observed at breakfast, that although it was a part of his abstemious discipline, on this most solemn fast, to take no milk in his tea, yet when Mrs. Desmoulins inadvertently poured it in, he did not reject it. I talked of the strange indecision of mind, and imbecility in the common occurrences of life, which we may observe in

some people. JOHNSON : " Why, Sir, I am in the habit of getting others to do things for me." BOSWELL : " What, Sir ! have you that weakness ? " JOHNSON : " Yes, Sir. But I always think afterwards I should have done better for myself."

BOSWELL : *Life of Johnson.*

(17) BOSWELL : " I cannot agree with you, Sir. People would like to read what you say of anything. Suppose a face has been painted by fifty painters before ; still we love to see it done by Sir Joshua."

JOHNSON : " True, Sir, but Sir Joshua cannot paint a face when he has not time to look on it." *Ibid.*

**§ 9. Newspaper Reports.**—Consider the following newspaper report :—

Mr. G. K. Chesterton, in a lecture on " What is Wrong ? " at Westminster Cathedral Hall, on Saturday, said some people believed that poverty was due to drink. That meant that the destruction of the poor was due to their taking the same drinks as were taken by the rich.

He had heard millionaires, especially American millionaires, attribute their success to the fact that all their lives they had abstained from fermented liquors, and they attributed the failures of other people to the fact that they had not so abstained.

" I have nothing to say about that," said Mr. Chesterton, " except that if sobriety produces American millionaires, then there is a greater curse and judgment resting on the sobriety that produces American millionaires. (Laughter.) I don't accept the explanation that these men became millionaires simply by sitting still and drinking lemonade." (Laughter.)

Mr. Chesterton said some people attributed the evils from which the world suffered to lack of education, whereas the fact was that they had too much education of the wrong sort.

The first and second paragraphs are reported indirectly. Re-write them in direct form.

The third paragraph is reported directly for the sake of variety, and to make the account more vivid.

The indirect form is difficult to sustain, and when long-continued imposes a strain upon the reader, and the modern tendency is to break it up. Re-write this third paragraph in *Oratio Obliqua*.

The fourth paragraph drops again into the indirect form. Re-write it in *Oratio Recta*.

### EXERCISE VIII

#### 1. Re-write the following in *Oratio Obliqua* :—

ALDERMAN SIR JOSEPH CALVERT, J.P., a Middlesbrough Colliery Owner :—I agree that increased output, reduction in costs, modification of trade union restrictions, and the elimination of strikes are all very desirable if trade is to be revived, but the spectre of unemployment must be removed, and the worker must be assured of provision for the time when he is no longer able to work. Both these things are possible, and it remains for some wise statesman to bring forward legislation which will introduce the desired reform. If such a matter could be settled by a conference, and allowed to take shape in the House of Commons, there would not be much more heard of the "Ca' canny" policy on the part of workers.

#### 2. Re-write the following in *Oratio Obliqua* :—

SIR WILLIAM J. LARKE, Director of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers :—There is a responsibility on both employers and employed to take a national view of their own particular problems in order to ensure that in their solution difficulties are not created in other sections of industry. No one desires to see the standard of living decreased in this country, but it can only be maintained if the products of industry can be made available at prices that are compatible with those of competing countries in the markets of the world. High wages are compatible only with low costs, and all sections of industry must co-operate to so improve our national industrial efficiency as to ensure this result.

3. The following shows a mixture of direct and indirect narration. Re-write it entirely in one or the other, as you prefer.

For three years a woman living near Regent's Park has kept a snake nine feet long in her safe to guard her valuables.

Mr. George Palmer, of Park Street, Camden Town, who sold the snake to the woman, told the *Daily News* yesterday that he suggested to her this novel way of protecting her treasures.

"The woman came to my shop and inspected the reptiles," he said. "She seemed quite unperturbed when I handed her even the most vicious-looking snakes. She apparently possesses a definite charm for snakes. She picked the biggest one in the shop, a South American King snake nine feet in length, for her home. She had a special safe constructed, with ventilation holes at the side."

Mr. Palmer said that the woman keeps the snake in the safe day and night.

She is so confident of the efficiency of her scheme that she has withdrawn all her money from the bank, and this, with the whole of her jewellery and other valuables, is now deposited in the safe with the snake to keep guard.

Food for the snake costs about 10s. weekly.

The woman refuses to be interviewed.

4. Put the following into *Oratio Obliqua* :—

(a) Isidore Hyams, commission agent and part proprietor of the club, admitted that after the stabbing he ran away.

Sir Edward Marshall Hall : Why did you run away ?—I was frightened I might get stabbed.

You say it was a deliberate stabbing and you ran away ?—Well, what would you do in such a case ?

Sir Edward : Don't ask me questions or you may get answers you don't like.

(b) The turning-point in my business career came when I returned to the Old Country 17 years ago, on a visit, and I went to see Mr. Gordon Selfridge, who, at that time,

was building his store. I asked him if he could give me a job as an advertisement manager, and he said to me : " No, Higham, I am sorry, you are five years too soon. England is not ready for your type of advertisement yet." I went back to the hotel, and I thought that over. I thought if my knowledge of advertising was five years ahead of England, then this country might be a gold mine, and so I decided to stay in England—and I am glad I did.

C. F. HIGHAM.

(c) I was plunged into the depths of despair. My father's business had failed, my mother and only sister had died, and my sweetheart, a sub-lieutenant, had ceased to correspond. I had lost faith in God and myself ; and when I started business in Birmingham I lacked both ambition and energy.

One day I was watching some soldiers arrive at New Street Station, when a young officer, in brushing past me, dropped his bag on my foot. Profuse in apology, he helped me to a waiting-room. We were there for about an hour, and during our conversation he revealed the startling fact that my sweetheart, who was known to him, had turned out a wastrel.

That incident was the prelude to a friendship that culminated in marriage ; and I regained my lost faith and happiness through the dropping of a soldier's bag.

**§ 10. Titles and Headlines.**—Writing a headline or giving a title is a good test of the grasp of the central idea of a paragraph or report. In a newspaper office this work is usually done by the sub-editor. Before the War he produced titles and headings which were restrained and really helpful ; now he aims at sensations. The following are headings and sub-headings taken from daily papers :—

(i) **EMPIRE AIR SCHEME.**

To Link London with India and Burma.

**SIR S. BRANCKER'S GREAT MISSION.**

The first line suggests a complete air service to all parts of the Empire, whereas only the Indian Empire

is dealt with. In the third line the word "great" might have been omitted. It is a word which, like "important" and "dramatic," is much overworked in newspaper headings.

Re-write the above in one or two lines.

(2) AUTHORSHIP OF THE FOURTEEN POINTS.

Was President Wilson the Originator ?

This is fairly provocative, but a little mystifying for those who had forgotten, or had never heard of, President Wilson's "Fourteen Points," which were drawn up at the time of the Peace Conference of 1918.

Re-write the heading as a single line.

(3) CINEMA STAR TO WED.

The last word is somehow offensive. What might be substituted ?

(4) NEW LIGHT ON MARS ?

Results of Recent Observations.

CANALS AND PROBLEM OF HABITABILITY.

The first line is ambiguous; the word light might mean information or knowledge, or it might refer to actual light. The last line contains an ugly noun.

Re-write the above headings, combining the three into two.

(5) SCOTLAND YARD MOBILIZING.

Serious Epidemic of Outrages.

This puts the cart before the horse. Try to improve it, avoiding the war-time word in the first line.

## EXERCISE IX

Write headlines for the following newspaper paragraphs and reports. The number of lines in the heading will depend on the length of the report.

(1) A recent survey has shown that a London street is now half an inch narrower than when the present buildings were put up.

Experts believe that this can be traced back to the building of a tube 60 feet below the roadway. As the driving "shield" used to hollow out the tunnel advanced, the London clay through which it was driven gave way slightly, and a narrow crack appeared above it. The soil subsided sufficiently to fill up this crack, and the result is shown by the later measurements.

The street is quite safe, and no damage has been done. Property owners have gained by the addition of several square feet to their holdings, but there is half an inch less width available for traffic in these days of traffic congestion.

(2) At Hove Court yesterday, Constable Standing, of the Hove police force, was presented with a silver cigarette case inscribed :

"Presented to Raymond Standing, Esq., for saving the life of our dear boy 13th September 1924. It conveys the lifelong gratitude of his parents and family."

The case was given by the parents of Constable William Tompkins, of the London Metropolitan police, who was saved by Standing from drowning in a rough sea at Hove after he had gone for a bathe. Tompkins had sunk three times, and was unconscious when found under water by Standing, brought ashore, and revived by artificial respiration.

(3) In a fog last night at Petersham, near Richmond, Mr. G. Theodore, of Haverstock Hill, Hampstead,

mistook a turning and drove his car down a lane leading to the river.

"I was not aware of my error until I heard a splash and felt the water swirling round the car. I waded to the bank up to my waist in water," he told a *Daily News* reporter.

The car was hauled out by the police. It will be recalled that a similar experience befell a Richmond motorist some months ago. He was drowned.

(4) Afforestation was put forward as a part cure for unemployment at a meeting of Devonshire landowners at Exeter yesterday.

Lord Clinton stated that the Forestry Commissioners, of whom he is one, would make grants towards the cost of labour in clearing scrub lands and planting young trees in woodlands, the amount of the grant to be based on acreage. Landowners of England and Scotland were taking advantage of this assistance, and in a short time thousands of men would be employed, the skilled men to clear and plant, and the unskilled to do fencing and draining. Afforestation would absorb men out of work in villages and relieve the acute unemployment in towns.

Several landowners present intimated their intention to fill up the schedule provided by the Commissioners as a preliminary to the unemployment grant.

(5) When a vacant house in an Irish town, formerly occupied by Thomas O'Ryan, a postman, who died two years ago, was entered by the new tenant during the week-end, more than a thousand letters were found.

The letters were lying about the floors. There were communications which had evidently accompanied substantial remittances of money, love letters, official papers, Christmas cards, and valentines. The letters

had evidently been accumulating for ten years before O'Ryan's death.

Postal officials took possession of the house. The letters have been removed to the head district office for sorting and delivery.

O'Ryan had served the Post Office for thirty years.

Los Angeles, Sunday.

(6) Practically the entire flow of the Los Angeles aqueduct was diverted into the Owens River at a point 200 miles north of the city this afternoon, when 60 men stormed the aqueduct guards and opened the waste gates.

The raiders announce that they will continue to spill the water until the Los Angeles authorities settle the water rights controversy, which has been going on for some years.

The aqueduct is the chief source of water supply for Los Angeles. The Governor has been asked to send troops to the scene.

(7) Sir Walford Davies was entertained by the National Commercial Temperance League at a luncheon in the Cannon Street Hotel yesterday, Mr. Leif Jones, president of the London Division of the League, being in the chair.

Mr. Leif Jones, proposing the health of their guest, described the public-houses of London as "places of dirt, disorder, and horror." The only thing that made people tolerate them was the love of drink.

"When they talk of improved public-houses," he added, "I wonder it does not occur to them that public-houses are the products of drink."

Sir Walford Davies, in responding, took the novel step of illustrating his arguments by music. At one moment he would burst into song or run up the scales, and the next walk to the end of the banqueting-hall and illustrate his point by playing on the piano.

Drink (he declared) was a great enemy of creative joys. To his mind Prohibition had put its finger on one brick—would it were London. They had to make a tight stand.

"We want life and order and wonderment," he said, "and we can't do with any spurious substitutes such as the wonderment whether a horse will win or the life there is in a whisky and soda. I am thankful to think that if you can bring the life of big art and the skill of an artistic nation into process, and touch it with the heavenly wonderment we find expressed by Beethoven and other composers, a counter-joy will be set up which will make it quite easy for the child to abnegate, abjure, and hate the very smell of the creaturely indulgence."

**§ 11. Summarizing Speeches.**—Only an important speech or lecture is reported *verbatim*. The reporter's duty is then to take down in shorthand what is said, or read, word by word. This is not a very difficult task, and in some cases even this effort is not required, for the speaker's manuscript may be handed to the pressman after the meeting. A reporter is much more severely tested when he is called upon to present a summary of what he has heard. He must select the salient points or outline the argument, and give cohesion and unity to his report. Only a well-trained and experienced pressman can do this well. He must be an attentive listener with an orderly mind, capable of closing his ears to the inessential and fixing with unerring precision upon the substance of the discourse.

Of course he is at liberty to take notes either in longhand or in shorthand, and from these jottings he can quickly write his summary or précis, as he may call it, though the former name is probably better, seeing that he is not expected to follow the speaker's words so much as his thoughts, and must sum up on

the subject as a whole, the ratio of original to report being probably as much as 100 to 1.

You can train yourself in making summaries of this kind by listening carefully to a speech, lecture, or sermon, making a few written notes if you like, and then telling some one who is interested the substance of what you have just heard. The writer used to be asked in his boyhood "what the sermon was about," and did not for a long time appreciate the question, especially if the discourse had been formless and uninteresting, as sermons sometimes are. But the threatened question acted as an incentive to careful listening, and to the memorizing of more or less obvious headings, which formed a kind of skeleton that could be decently covered when the ordeal arrived. It was not long before he found it helpful to leave out "he said . . . he said . . . then he said . . . then he went on to say," and gave the report in straightforward form, not: "He said that we ought to remember that the meaning of many Bible words has changed since," etc., but: "The meaning of many words has changed since," etc.

A certain sermon on the text, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth," was reported as follows, the words in italics having been jotted down in church:—

I. *The Meek Man*.—The Authorized Version was made more than three centuries ago, and many words have changed in meaning. We dislike a meek man, and think of him as spiritless, unenterprising, somewhat cowardly and despicable. Three hundred years ago the word probably meant the same as our word modest or unassuming.

II. *The Earth*.—No sane man wants to own the earth, and the phrase "to inherit the earth" must not be taken literally. In the first place, we might understand "inherit" to mean "enjoy," and "the earth" to mean "man's life on the earth," including good health, simple pleasures, friendship, delights of the spiritual life, of

Nature and of Art, hard work, moderate success, self-respect.

III. *The Inheritance*.—The quiet man can enjoy all these things much better than the self-assertive, pushful, boastful man. He has time to think and appreciate things, because he is not concerned with pushing others aside. Things which others sell their souls to possess he can enjoy equally well if he is only allowed to look at them. He rises above selfish ambition, and "possesses" the riches in the world because he feels that he can do without them. Besides, he owns the treasures of the mind (which mean nothing to the "successful" man), remembering the poet's words,—

" My mind to me a kingdom is."

### EXERCISE X

I. Imagine that Roger Ascham had actually spoken the following words taken from his book. Give in brief form the substance of what he said.

It is your shame (I speak to you all, you young gentlemen of England) that one maid should go beyond you all in excellence of learning and knowledge of divers tongues.

Point out six of the best given gentlemen of this Court, and all they together show not so much goodwill, spend not so much time, bestow not so many hours daily, orderly and constantly, for the increase of learning and knowledge as doth the Queen's Majesty herself.

Yea, I believe that besides her perfect readiness in Latin, Italian, French, and Spanish, she readeth here now at Windsor more Greek every day than some prebendary of the Church doth read Latin in a whole week.

And that which is most praiseworthy of all, within the walls of her chamber she hath obtained that excellence of learning, to understand, speak, and write, both wisely with head and fair with hand, as scarce one or two rare wits in both the Universities have in many years reached unto.

Whose sole example, if the rest of our nobility would follow, then England might be, for learning and wisdom in nobility, a spectacle to all the world beside.

2. Give the substance of the following portion of a lecture on *Heroes and Hero-Worship* delivered by Thomas Carlyle.

Well : this is our poor Warwickshire Peasant, who rose to be Manager of a Playhouse, so that he could live without begging ; whom the Earl of Southampton cast some kind glances on ; whom Sir Thomas Lucy, many thanks to him, was for sending to the treadmill ! We did not account him a god, like Odin, while he dwelt with us ;—on which point there was much to be said. But I will say rather, or repeat : In spite of the sad state Hero-worship now lies in, consider what this Shakespeare has actually become among us. Which Englishman we ever made, in this land of ours, which million of Englishmen, would we not give up rather than the Stratford Peasant ?

There is no regiment of highest Dignitaries that we would sell him for. He is the grandest thing we have yet done. For our honour among foreign nations, as an ornament to our English Household, what item is there that we would not surrender rather than him ? Consider now, if they asked us, Will you give up your Indian Empire or your Shakespeare, you English ; never have had any Indian Empire, or never have had any Shakespeare ? Really it were a grave question. Official persons would answer doubtless in official language ; but we, for our part too, should not we be forced to answer : Indian Empire, or no Indian Empire ; we cannot do without Shakespeare ! Indian Empire will go, at any rate, some day ; but this Shakespeare does not go, he lasts for ever with us ; we cannot give up our Shakespeare !

3. Give the substance of the following lecture by Miss Tickletoby (from Thackeray's *Occasional Papers*) :—

THE PICTS, THE SCOTS, THE DANES ; GREGORY THE SATIRIST, THE CONVERSION OF THE BRITONS, THE CHARACTER OF ALFRED.—I did not in my former Lecture make the least allusion to the speech of Queen Boadicea to her troops before going into action, because, although several reports of that oration have been handed down to

us, not one of them as I take it is correct, and what is the use, my darlings, of reporting words (hers were very abusive against the Romans)—of reporting words that never were uttered? There's scandal enough, loves, in this wicked world without going back to old stories—*real* scandal too, which may satisfy any person. Nor did I mention King Caractacus's noble behaviour before the Roman Emperor Claudius; for that history is so abominably stale that I am sure none of my blessed loves require to be told it.

When the Britons had been deserted by the Romans, and found themselves robbed and pillaged by the Picts and Scots, they sent over to a people called Saxons (so called because they didn't live in Saxony): who came over to help their friends, and having turned out the Picts and Scots, and finding the country a pleasant one to dwell in, they took possession of it, saying that the Britons did not deserve to have a country, as they did not know how to keep it. This sort of argument was considered very just in those days—and I've seen some little boys in this school acting *Saxon-fashion*: for instance, Master Spry the other day took away a piece of gingerbread from Master Jones, giving him a great thump on the nose instead; and what was the consequence? I showed Master Spry the injustice of his action, and punished him severely.

*To Master Spry.* How did I punish you, my dear? tell the company.

*Master Spry.* You kept the gingerbread.

*Miss T. (severely).* I don't mean that; how else did I punish you?

*Master Spry.* You vipped me; but I kicked your shins all the time.

Unruly boy! but so it is, ladies and gentlemen, in the infancy of individuals as in that of nations: we hear of these continual scenes of violence, until prudence teaches respect for property, and law becomes stronger than force. To return to the Saxons: they seized upon the goods and persons of the effeminate Britons, made the latter their slaves, and sold them as such in foreign countries. The mind shudders at such horrors!—How should *you* like, you naughty Master Spry, to be seized and carried from your blessed mother's roof? [*immense sensation, and*

*audible sobbing among the ladies present]* how should you like to be carried off and sold as a slave to France or Italy?

*Master Spry.* Is there any schools there? I shouldn't mind if there ain't.

*Miss T.* Yes, sir, there *are* schools, and RODS.

4. Read each of the following extracts from speeches *once only*, making notes as you read. From these notes write out a short summary of each extract.

(a) There have been periods in our history, not so very far distant, when leading statesmen, despairing of the possibility of maintaining anything in the nature of a permanent union, have looked forward to the time when the vigorous communities to which they rightly entrusted the control of their own destinies would grow strong and independent, would assert their independence, and would claim entire separation from the parent stem. The time to which they looked forward has arrived sooner than they expected. The conditions to which they referred have been more than fulfilled; and now these great communities, which have within them every element of national life, have taken their rank amongst the nations of the world; and I do not suppose that any one would consider the idea of compelling them to remain within the empire as within the region of intelligent speculation. Yet although, as I have said, the time has come, and the conditions have been fulfilled, the results which these statesmen anticipated have not followed. They felt, perhaps, overwhelmed by the growing burdens of the vast dominions of the British Crown. They may well have shrunk from the responsibilities and the obligations which they involve; and so it happened that some of them looked forward not only without alarm, but with hopeful expectation, to a severance of the union which now exists.

But if such feelings were ever entertained they are entertained no longer. As the possibility of separation has become greater, the desire for separation has become less. While we on our part are prepared to take our share of responsibility, and to do all that may fairly be expected from the mother country, and while we should look upon a separation as the greatest calamity that could befall us, our fellow-subjects on their part see to what a great inheritance they have come by mere virtue of their citizenship ; and they must feel that no separate existence, however splendid, could compare with that which they enjoy equally with ourselves as joint heirs of all the traditions of the past, and as joint partakers of all the influence, resources, and power of the British Empire.

I rejoice at the change that has taken place. I rejoice at the wider patriotism, no longer confined to this small island, which embraces the whole of Greater Britain and which has carried to every clime British institutions and the best characteristics of the British race. How could it be otherwise ? We have a common origin, we have a common history, a common language, a common literature, and a common love of liberty and law. We have common principles to assert, we have common interests to maintain. I said it was a slender thread that binds us together. I remember on one occasion having been shown a wire so fine and delicate that a blow might break it ; yet I was told that it was capable of transmitting an electrical energy that would set powerful machinery in motion. May it not be the same with the relations which exist between the colonies and ourselves ; and may not that thread of union be capable of carrying a force of sentiment and of sympathy which will yet be a potent factor in the history of the world.

There is a word which I am almost afraid to mention, lest at the very outset of my career I should lose my character as a practical statesman. I am told on

every hand that Imperial Federation is a vain and empty dream. I will not contest that judgment, but I will say this : that that man must be blind, indeed, who does not see that it is a dream which has vividly impressed itself on the mind of the English-speaking race, and who does not admit that dreams of that kind, which have so powerful an influence upon the imagination of men, have somehow or another an unaccountable way of being realized in their own time. If it be a dream, it is a dream that appeals to the highest sentiments of patriotism, as well as to our material interests. It is a dream which is calculated to stimulate and to inspire every one who cares for the future of the Anglo-Saxon people. I think myself that the spirit of the time is, at all events, in the direction of such a movement. How far it will carry us no man can tell ; but, believe me, upon the temper and the tone in which we approach the solution of the problems which are now coming upon us depend the security and the maintenance of that world-wide dominion, that edifice of Imperial rule, which has been so ably built for us by those who have gone before.

Rt. Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

(b) I would not say a word about the German people to disparage them. They are a great people ; they have great qualities of head, of hand, and of heart. I believe, in spite of recent events, there is as great a store of kindness in the German peasant as in any peasant in the world. But he has been drilled into a false idea of civilization. It is a hard civilization ; it is a selfish civilization ; it is a material civilization. They could not comprehend the action of Britain at the present moment. "France," they say, "we can understand. She is out for vengeance, she is out for territory—Alsace-Lorraine. Russia, she is fighting for mastery ; she wants Galicia." They can understand vengeance, they can understand you

fighting for mastery, they can understand you fighting for greed of territory ; they cannot understand a great Empire pledging its resources, pledging its might, pledging the lives of its children, pledging its very existence to protect a little nation that calls for its defence. God made man in His own image, high of purpose, in the region of the spirit. German civilization would re-create him in the image of a Diesel engine—precise, accurate, powerful, with no room for the soul to operate. That is the higher civilization.

What is their demand ? Have you read the Kaiser's speeches ? If you have not a copy, I advise you to buy it ; they will soon be out of print, and you won't have any more of the same sort again. They are full of the chatter and bluster of German militarists—the mailed fist, the shining armour. Poor old mailed fist : its knuckles are getting a little bruised. Poor shining armour : the shine is being knocked out of it. But there is the same swagger and boastfulness running through the whole of the speeches. You saw that remarkable speech which appeared in the *British Weekly* this week. It is a very remarkable product, as an illustration of the spirit we have got to fight. It is his speech to the soldiers on the way to the front :—

“ Remember that the German people are the chosen of God. On me, on me as German Emperor, the Spirit of God has descended. I am His weapon, His sword, and His Vicegerent. Woe to the disobedient. Death to cowards and unbelievers.”

There has been nothing like it since the days of Mahomet. Lunacy is always distressing—but sometimes it is dangerous, and when you get it manifested in the head of the State, and it has become the policy of a great Empire, it is about time that it should be ruthlessly put away. I do not believe he meant all these speeches ; it was simply the martial straddle

which he had acquired. But there were men around him who meant every word of it. That was their religion. Treaties? They tangle the feet of Germany in her advance. Cut them with the sword. Little nations? They hinder the advance of Germany. Trample them in the mire under the German heel. The Russian Slav? He challenges the supremacy of Germany in Europe. Hurl your legions at him and massacre him. Britain? She is a constant menace to the predominancy of Germany in the world. Wrest the trident out of her hand.

More than that, the new philosophy of Germany is to destroy Christianity. Sickly sentimentalism about sacrifice for others—poor pap for German digestion. We will have a new diet. We will force it on the world. It will be made in Germany, a diet of blood and iron. What remains? Treaties have gone; the honour of nations has gone; liberty gone; what is left? Germany! Germany is left—*Deutschland über Alles*. That is what we have got to fight—that claim of the predominance of a civilization, a material one, a hard one, a civilization which if it once rules and sways the world, liberty goes, democracy vanishes, and unless Britain comes to the rescue, and her sons, it will be a dark day for humanity!

The Prussian Junker is the road-hog of Europe. Small nationalities in his way are flung to the roadside, bleeding and broken; women and children crushed under the wheel of his cruel car; Britain ordered out of his way. All I can say is this. If the old British spirit is alive in British hearts, that bully will be torn from his seat. Were he to win it would be the greatest catastrophe that had befallen democracy since the days of the Holy Alliance and its ascendancy. They think we cannot beat them. It will not be easy. It will be a long job. It will be a terrible war. But in the end we shall march through terror to triumph. We shall need all our qualities—every quality that

Britain and its people possess—prudence in council, daring in action, tenacity in purpose, courage in defeat, moderation in victory, in all things faith, and we shall win.

Rt. Hon. D. LLOYD GEORGE.

5. Give a title or heading and a sub-title or sub-heading to each of the above extracts.

## CHAPTER IV.—CLOSE PRÉCIS

§ 12. **A Practical Exercise.**—In a general way we ought not to make close précis of pieces of real literature. The finished writer “means every word he says”; indeed, he does more than this, for there is meaning in the very arrangement and order of his words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. We may, quite properly, summarize his work, tell in a few words of our own what is the general drift of what he has written, for this is an excellent test of our grasp of his meaning; but if we have any appreciation of literary form we cannot mangle a piece of good prose. Take the following as an example:—

Though fond of many acquaintances, I desire an intimacy with only a few. The Man in Black, whom I have often mentioned, is one whose friendship I could wish to acquire, because he possesses my esteem. His manners, it is true, are tinctured with some strange inconsistencies; and he may be justly termed a humorist in a nation of humorists.

This is an extract from one of Oliver Goldsmith's essays. With a feeling that we are committing sacrilege we begin, in the third person:—

(The writer) likes many acquaintances but few intimates. He esteems, and wishes to make a friend of the Man in Black, whose manners are somewhat inconsistent and who is . . .

Here we give it up. We have already garbled

Goldsmith's perfect sentences and are quite unable to compress the phrase "a humorist in a nation of humorists" into anything but nonsense.

Close précis in the ratio of 1 to 3 or 1 to 4 may be made of business reports, long letters, agreements, pleas, all of which contain a great deal of verbiage which will never be missed; also of writings which are informative, such as encyclopædia or magazine articles. Consider the following clause taken from an agreement between landlord and tenant:—

*Clause 3.* That the tenant will at all times during the term hereby granted keep in good and tenantable repair and condition the inside of the said messuage and premises and all additions thereto and all internal fixtures and the glass in the windows (damage by fire excepted) and will maintain and keep free from weeds and in good and neat order and condition the garden and grounds of the said demised premises and the said messuage garden and grounds and premises in such good and tenantable repair order and condition deliver up to the landlords at the expiration or sooner determination of the said term.

(106 words.)

During the time of his occupation the tenant will keep in good condition the inside of the house, fixtures, and window-panes (damage by fire excepted), and will keep the garden and grounds in good order.

(36 words.)

Note that there is no punctuation in the original clause, and that the English lacks charm of expression if not clarity. The above précis gives the meaning

of the clause as an ordinary person would express it if he were asked what were the tenant's obligations under this particular clause. In making the précis (1) repetition has been avoided ; (2) the paragraph was first reviewed as a whole, with the result that the last part of it furnished a hint for the beginning of the précis ; (3) obvious expansions of meaning have been contracted—for example, "in good and tenantable repair and condition" becomes "in good condition," and "keep free from weeds and in good and neat order and condition" is shortened to "in good order," the weeding being taken for granted.

#### EXERCISE XI

i. Make a close précis of each of the following clauses from the above-mentioned agreement :—

*Clause 4.* The tenant will not cut or injure the walls or principal timbers of the said premises or alter the internal construction or external construction or elevation thereof nor cut down any existing tree or hedge nor dig out or excavate any sand earth clay loam or gravel nor carry on or permit to be carried on any trade business profession or occupation nor any asylum or school on the said premises or any part thereof nor use the same or any part thereof for any illegal purpose of advertising or for a sale by auction nor will keep poultry pigeons or any birds or animals of any kind on the said premises or any part thereof without the consent of the landlords in writing first obtained but will keep the said premises as and for a private dwelling-house only and for no other purpose.

*Clause 5.* The tenant will not erect or place or continue or permit to be erected or placed or continued

on the said premises or any part thereof any shed building erection porch fence or linen post or exhibit any sign notice advertisement or name plate without the consent of the landlords in writing first obtained nor hang out to dry any linen except on Mondays and Tuesdays up till 6 p.m. and on Thursdays and Fridays up till 1 o'clock nor erect any flue or set up any steam engine or machinery or burn bricks or clay or cement on the said premises nor do or suffer anything to be done in or upon the said premises which may be or grow to be to the nuisance injury annoyance or damage of the superior lessor or the landlords or of any of their tenants or the neighbourhood or which may render any increased or extra premium payable for the insurance of the premises against fire or which may make void or voidable any policy for such insurance.

*Clause 6.* The tenant will not permit the said messuage or any part thereof to be occupied by such a number of persons as shall reduce the air space available for each individual over ten years of age below 500 cubic feet or for each child under that age below 250 cubic feet.

*Clause 7.* The tenant will not assign underlet or part with the possession of the premises or any part thereof without the previous consent in writing of the landlords.

*Clause 8.* The tenant will not make any waste nor do or permit any encroachment way or thoroughfare over or through any part of the said premises.

2. Read the following:—

In another column will be found a letter from the Agent-General for New South Wales protesting against certain figures and comments regarding Australian

finance recently published on this page. We welcome the fullest discussion of all facts and figures bearing on this matter, for we feel that increased vigilance is required with regard to the rapidly growing indebtedness of the Commonwealth and the States of Australia. To the investors of this country, in view of the very large amount of trustee securities involved, this question is of great importance, and we make no apology for dealing with it again at length this week.

Give the meaning of the above in about one-third the number of words. Begin: The Agent-General for New South Wales protests against . . .

3. Imagine that the following has been handed to you by the editor of the school magazine, with a request to "boil it down to sixty words." How would you do it?

The first tropical giant stick insect the Zoo has had has just been installed in the Insect House.

It comes from Java, and although it is some 5 in. long, it is almost indiscernible, because it is shaped, coloured, and marked exactly like a slim twig, and it rests continuously on a branch of holm-oak in its case. The only way to distinguish it is to inspect the branches of the plant one by one and concentrate on that which appears to have grown three pairs of almost invisible legs. At the top of this branch may be discovered something remotely resembling a head. All this species of insect does is to feed on leaves, breed, and die.

An insect of a similar species which the Zoo once had used to fling out its eggs 20 ft. with a swing of its tail. The new giant stick is being watched to see if it develops similar machine-gun tactics.

4. Read the following letter *once only*, and then tell some one briefly what it conveys:—

We are always told to be systematic in our work, but this lady was systematic not only in the duties of her life, but in her affection for her friends. She counted up those whom she specially wished to cherish—her brothers and sisters, not a few cousins and other relations, her school friends, her other friends—and they numbered twenty-eight. And so she formed a little scheme. One day in each month was assigned to each friend. When there were a few days over, then certain particular friends got two days that month. It might be a visit or a letter. Perhaps it was some little gift ; perhaps it was some little attention to the child of the friend. It might even be nothing more than a cutting from a newspaper, or a few kind words on a card, or some message, or even, without any actual communication whatever, it might be at least a few kind and sympathetic thoughts. That little calendar of the affections—of which no one knew except the tender heart herself—was indeed twice blessed. It blessed those that received it ; it blessed her that sent. I ought to know. I was one of the happy twenty-eight. The lady was a beloved sister of my own.

SIR ROBERT BALL.\*

5. We have agreed that, as a rule, we ought not to mangle pieces of literature. The following is a piece of literature, but its author often filled out and elaborated his thoughts to such an extent that some critics have called him “wordy” or “verbose.” Express shortly what he wishes to convey by these two paragraphs, and give the extract a good title or heading. The explanation from “For though” to “real principle” might be omitted.

\* *Reminiscences and Letters of Sir Robert Ball*, edited by W. V. Ball (Cassell). With acknowledgments.

When you come to a good book you must ask yourself, "Am I inclined to work as an Australian miner would? Are my pickaxes and shovels in good order, and am I in good trim myself, my sleeves well up to the elbow, and my breath good, and my temper?" And, keeping the figure a little longer, even at cost of tiresomeness, for it is a thoroughly useful one, the metal you are in search of being the author's mind or meaning, his words are as the rock which you have to crush and smelt in order to get at it. And your pickaxes are your own care, wit, and learning; your smelting furnace is your own thoughtful soul. Do not hope to get at any good author's meaning without these tools and that fire; often you will need sharpest, finest chiselling, and patientest fusing, before you can gather one grain of the metal.

And, therefore, first of all, I tell you, earnestly and authoritatively (I *know* I am right in this), you must get into the habit of looking intensely at words, and assuring yourself of their meaning, syllable by syllable—nay, letter by letter. For though it is only by reason of the opposition of letters in the function of signs, to sounds in functions of signs, that the study of books is called "literature," and that a man versed in it is called, by the consent of nations, a man of letters instead of a man of books, or of words, you may yet connect with that accidental nomenclature this real principle:—that you might read all the books in the British Museum (if you could live long enough), and remain an utterly "illiterate," uneducated person; but that if you read ten pages of a good book, letter by letter—that is to say, with real accuracy,—you are for evermore in some measure an educated person.

JOHN RUSKIN.

**§ 13. Combining Paragraphs.**—In making close précis it is sometimes possible, and advisable, to combine two or more paragraphs into one. The last example in the preceding Exercise is a case in point, both the paragraphs treating of the same subject, which might be entitled in the modern manner, "Weigh Each Word." Indeed, this is the test for combination in précis: "Do the paragraphs deal with a single theme?"

Consider the following:—

CHAUCER (*Dryden*)

As Chaucer is the father of English poetry, so I hold him in the same degree of veneration as the Grecians held Homer, or the Romans Virgil: he is a perpetual fountain of good sense; learned in all the sciences; and therefore speaks properly on all the subjects; as he knew what to say, so he knows also when to leave off.

He must have been a man of a most wonderful comprehensive nature, because, as it has been truly observed of him, he has taken into the compass of his *Canterbury Tales* the various manners and humours (as we now call them) of the whole English nation, in his age.

(111 words.)

As the Grecians venerated Homer, and the Romans Virgil, so I venerate our first poet Chaucer. He is sensible, learned, authoritative, exact, as well as comprehensive, for his *Canterbury Tales* hold up a mirror to the whole English nation. \*(39 words.)

“THE COMPLEAT ANGLER” (*Washington Irving*)

It is said that many an unlucky urchin is induced to run away from his family, and betake himself to a seafaring life, from reading the history of Robinson Crusoe; and I suspect that, in like manner, many of those worthy gentlemen who are given to haunt the sides of pastoral streams

As many a boy runs away to sea through reading *Robinson Crusoe*, so many men become fishers through reading Izaak Walton’s *Compleat Angler*. When I read this book with some friends in America we were badly bitten, and choosing the first suitable day in early summer

with angle rods in hand may trace the origin of their passion to the seductive pages of honest Izaak Walton.

I recollect studying his *Compleat Angler* several years since, in company with a knot of friends in America, and moreover that we were all completely bitten with the angling mania. It was early in the year ; but as soon as the weather was auspicious, and that the spring began to melt into the verge of summer, we took rod in hand and sallied into the country, as stark mad as was ever Don Quixote from reading books of chivalry.

(151 words.)

## PRECIS, NOTES,

we set out with our rods as mad as Don Quixote.  
(57 words.)

## EXERCISE XII

I. Make close précis (about 3 to 1) of each of the following passages, combining the two or three paragraphs into one :—

(a) As I crossed Tower Wharf, a squat tawny fellow, with a hanger by his side and a cudgel in his hand, came up to me, calling : “ Yo, ho ! brother, you must come along with me ! ”

As I did not like his appearance, instead of answering his salutation, I quickened my pace, in hope of ridding myself of his company ; upon which he whistled aloud, and immediately another sailor appeared before me, who laid hold of me by the collar, and began to drag me along.

TOBIAS SMOLLETT.

(b) There is a slumbering subterranean fire in Nature which never goes out, and which no cold can chill. It

finally melts the great snow, and in January or July is only buried under a thicker or thinner covering. In the coldest day it flows somewhere, and the snow melts around every tree. This field of winter rye, which sprouted late in the autumn, and now speedily dissolves the snow, is where the fire is very thinly covered.

This subterranean fire has its altar in each man's breast ; for in the coldest day, and on the bleakest hill, the traveller cherishes a warmer fire within the folds of his cloak than is kindled on any hearth. A healthy man, indeed, is the complement of the season, and in winter summer is in his heart. There is the south ; thither have all birds and insects migrated, and around the warm springs in his breast are gathered the robin and the lark.

HENRY THOREAU.

(c) It was by accident I discovered this place one fine afternoon. All was perfect stillness. Everybody was in the fields except a little boy about four years old, who was sitting on the ground, and holding between his knees a child of about six months. He pressed it to his bosom with his little arms, which made a sort of wide seat for it ; and, notwithstanding the vivacity which sparkled in his eyes, he sat perfectly still.

Quite delighted with the scene, I sat down on a plough opposite, and had great pleasure in drawing this little picture of brotherly tenderness. I added a bit of the hedge, the barn-door, and some broken cart-wheels, without any order, just as they happened to lie ; and in about an hour I found I had made a drawing of great expression and very correct design, without having put in anything of my own.

This confirmed me in the resolution I had made before : only to copy Nature for the future. Nature is inexhaustible, and alone forms the greatest masters. Say what you will of rules, they alter the true features and the natural expression.

GOETHE : *Sorrows of Werter.*

2. Make a close précis of the following in three paragraphs :—

Lawn Bank, Keats' old home at Hampstead, this week becomes a national possession.

Shortly before the centenary of the poet's death the house, a little two-story dwelling, and its grounds came into the market, and a committee, with the Mayor of Hampstead as chairman, was formed to save it from the builder's hands.

The property is now vested as a permanent trust in the Hampstead Borough Council, and possession is to be given to the Council within a day or two.

Subject to the approval of the Hampstead Borough Council, Keats' house is to be open each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Except for the addition of a drawing-room the house is little changed from when the poet made it his home after the death of his brother Tom. Some of the prints that hung on the walls in the old days will find their way back, and the Keats relics at Hampstead Library will be removed there too.

It was at Lawn Bank, in the house or garden, that Keats wrote some of his finest work, including *La Belle Dame Sans Merci*, both versions of *Hyperion*, and *The Eve of St. Mark*.

The large mulberry tree under which he wrote the *Ode to the Nightingale* still flourishes on the lawn in front of the house.

### 3. Make a précis of the following in a single paragraph:—

A really capable housekeeper will not be satisfied with good cookery only. She will be careful to have each dish nicely served, however plain it may be. Culture, or the want of it, will be seen at once in the appointment of her table. This remark does not apply to a profusion of glass, silver, or flowers—these are questions of wealth—but to the neatness and order with which a table is laid, and the manner in which a meal is served.

Some people are particularly sensitive to external impressions, and to them a dinner, or any other meal, however costly, served in an untidy room, with tablecloth soiled, silver tarnished, glasses smeared, and, above all, a slovenly servant, would be enough to give a feeling of depression that would do anything but aid digestion.

## CHAPTER V.—MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISES

§ 14. **Learning by Doing.**—We give below a series of prose passages varying greatly in length and subject-matter. At the foot of each extract notes are appended suggesting methods of treatment for giving the substance of the passage under consideration. Read each extract once only, pause to consider its subject, give it a title or heading and, if you choose, a sub-heading; then give its substance as close précis or summary according to the character and contents of the excerpt.

## EXERCISE XIII

## I

We were separated by a storm in the latitude of 73, insomuch that only the ship which I was in, with a Dutch and a French vessel, got safe into a creek of Nova Zembla. We landed, in order to refit our vessels and store ourselves with provisions. The crew of each vessel made themselves a cabin of turf and wood, at some distance from each other, to fence themselves against the inclemencies of the weather, which were severe beyond imagination. We soon observed that in talking to one another we lost several of our words, and could not hear one another at above two yards' distance, and that too when we sat very near the fire.

After much perplexity, I found that our words froze in the air before they could reach the ears of the person to whom they were spoken. I was soon con-

firmed in this conjecture, when, upon the increase of the cold, the whole company grew dumb, or rather deaf ; for every man was sensible, as we afterwards found, that he spoke as well as ever, but the sounds no sooner took air than they were condensed and lost.

JOSEPH ADDISON.

NOTES.—Make fairly close précis combining the two paragraphs into one. Begin, “My ship, with a Dutch and French vessel, was driven by a storm upon,” etc. ; or in reported speech, “An English, a French, and a Dutch vessel,” etc. Heading and sub-heading may be as sensational as you please.

## II

There had been a smart frost during the night, and the rime lay white on the grass as we passed onwards through the fields ; but the sun rose in a clear atmosphere, and the day mellowed, as it advanced into one of those delightful days of early spring which give so pleasing an earnest of whatever is mild and genial in the better half of the year. All the workmen rested at mid-day, and I went to enjoy my half-hour alone on a mossy knoll in the neighbouring wood, which commands through the trees a wide prospect of the bay and the opposite shore. There was not a ripple on the water, nor a cloud in the sky, and the branches were as moveless in the calm as if they had been traced on canvas. From a wooded promontory that stretched half-way across the frith there ascended a thin column of smoke. It rose straight as the line of a plummet for more than a thousand yards, and then, on reaching a thinner stratum of air, spread out equally on every side, like the foliage of a stately tree. Ben Wyvis rose to the west, white with the yet unwasted snows of winter, and as sharply defined in the clear atmosphere as if

all its sunny slopes and blue retiring hollows had been chiselled in marble. A line of snow ran along the opposite hills : all above was white, and all below was purple.

HUGH MILLER.

NOTES.—This passage affords good material for close précis of the kind that the author might have made before filling it out. Or, if you prefer, you may set down Notes such as he might have made from observation before writing his paragraph.

### III

In the eighteenth year of Edward I., Henry de Whiteby and Joan his wife impleaded several of the miners for cutting down and carrying away their trees. The miners answer that *they farm the mine of the King* and plead that for working a vein of silver (as now they do) the miners have a right to take any wood whatsoever that shall be near to and convenient for the said work, and that they have also a right at their will and pleasure to use and dispose of that wood for burning and smelting, and for paying the workmen their wages ; and they state that they have exercised their right from time immemorial.

The said Henry and Joan acknowledge the miners' right to take the wood for burning and smelting for the use of the mine, but charge that the miners had cut down, carried away, and sold large quantities of wood, from which the king received no kind of benefit, and which never came to the use of the mine at all, and upon this they pray to have judgment.

It doth not appear what was the event of the cause, nor is it now very material to inquire, for two reasons ; first by Act of Parliament no mine shall be deemed a royal mine notwithstanding any gold or silver that may be found in it, only the king if he pleases may have the ore, *paying for the same a stated price.*

Secondly, there is now, as may well be supposed, scarce a tree to be seen in the whole district.

NOTES.—This extract is taken from an old chronicle. Modernize the language, and make close précis. Study carefully to make the argument clear. If you choose, you may make two columns containing the contentions of the two parties respectively.

## IV

"Why have not *we* immortal souls?" asked the little Mermaid. "I would willingly give up my three hundred years of life to be a human being for only one day, thus to become entitled to enter that heavenly world above."

"You must not think of that," answered her grandmother; "it is much better as it is; we live longer, and are far happier than human beings."

"So I must die, and be dashed like foam over the sea, never again to rise and hear the gentle murmur of the ocean, never again to see the beautiful flowers and the bright sun! Tell me, dear grandmother, are there no means by which I may obtain an immortal soul?"

"No!" replied the old lady. "It is true that if thou couldst so win the affections of a human being as to become dearer to him than either father or mother—if he loved thee with all his heart, and promised to be always faithful to thee—then his soul would flow into thine, and thou wouldst become partaker of human bliss. But that can never be; for what in our eyes is the most beautiful part of our body, the tail, the inhabitants of the earth think hideous: they cannot bear it."

The little Mermaid sighed and looked mournfully at the scaly part of her form, otherwise so fair and delicate.

"We are happy," added the old lady; "we shall

jump and swim about merrily for three hundred years—that is a long time—and afterwards we shall repose peacefully in death. This evening we have a court ball."

HANS ANDERSEN.

NOTES.—Make close précis in reported speech combining some of the paragraphs. Begin, "The Mermaid asked . . . and said that she," etc. A great deal of skill is required for this exercise, but time spent upon it will not be wasted. There are very obvious expansions, such as "win the affections . . . faithful to thee," which means "gain the sole faithful love of a human."

v

The lady called Tom up and held out her fingers with something in them, and popped it into his mouth; and, lo and behold, it was a nasty, cold, hard pebble! "You are a very cruel woman," said he, and began to whimper. "And you are a very cruel boy; who puts pebbles into the sea-anemones' mouths, to take them in, and make them fancy that they had caught a good dinner? As you did to them, so I must do to you." "Who told you that?" said Tom. "You did yourself, this very minute." Tom had never opened his lips; so he was very much taken aback indeed. "Yes; every one tells me exactly what they have done wrong; and that without knowing it themselves. So there is no use trying to hide anything from me. Now go, and be a good boy, and I will put no more pebbles in your mouth, if you put none in other creatures'." "I did not know there was any harm in it," said Tom. "Then you know now. People continually say that to me: but I tell them, if you don't know that fire burns, that is no reason that it should not burn you; and if you don't know that dirt breeds fever, that is no reason why the fevers should not kill you. The lobster did not know that there was any harm in getting into the lobster-pot; but it caught him

all the same." "Dear me," thought Tom, "she knows everything!" And so she did indeed.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

NOTES.—Here we have a combination of direct and indirect narration, and the passage must be rendered in précis entirely in one or the other. We might begin, "The lady called Tom and popped a pebble into his mouth, whereupon he said, whimperingly, that she was very cruel. She retorted that he had cruelly put pebbles into hungry sea-anemones' mouths. Tom asked who had told her, and was surprised to learn that he and indeed every one told her," etc. This brings us down to "anything from me," the ratio being 3 to 1. Do not use "said" or "answered" too often.

VI

Such was the end of these men ; they were worthy of Athens, and the living need not desire a more heroic temper, though they may pray for a less fatal event. The worth of such a temper cannot be told in words. Any one can tell you commonplaces about the merits of a brave defence. Instead of listening to him, I would have you, day by day, fix your eyes upon the greatness of Athens, till you are filled with the love of her, and when you are overcome by her glory, reflect that this Empire was made by men who knew their duty and had the courage to do it, and who, if ever they failed in what they undertook, would not have their virtues lost to their country, but freely gave their lives to her as the fairest holiday offering to deck her feast.

The sacrifice which they offered in common was repaid to them singly ; to every one of them was given a praise that never grows old and the noblest of all sepulchres—I do not mean that in which their remains are laid, but that in which their glory lives, and

is proclaimed for ever, on every fitting occasion, both in deeds and words.

THUCYDIDES.

NOTES.—This is a piece of fine prose, the grandeur of which depends as much upon its form and sound as upon the thoughts which it expresses. It is therefore not a good example for précis, and we might content ourselves by giving it a dignified heading and sub-heading which will sum up the ideas expressed.

## VII

The great error in Rip van Winkle's composition was an insuperable aversion to all kinds of profitable labour. It could not be for want of assiduity or perseverance ; for he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod as long and heavy as a Tartar's lance, and fish all day without a murmur, even though he should not be encouraged by a single nibble. He would carry a fowling-piece on his shoulder for hours together, trudging through woods and swamps, and up hill and down dale, to shoot a few squirrels or wild pigeons. He would never refuse to assist a neighbour even in the roughest toil, and was a foremost man in all country frolics for husking Indian corn or building stone fences ; the women of the village, too, used to employ him to run errands, and to do such little odd jobs as their less obliging husbands would not do for them. In a word, Rip was ready to attend to anybody's business but his own ; but as to doing family duty, and keeping his farm in order, he found it impossible.

In fact, he declared it was of no use to work on his farm ; it was the most pestilent little piece of ground in the whole country ; everything about it went wrong, in spite of him. His fences were continually falling to pieces ; his cow would either go astray or get among the cabbages ; weeds were sure to grow quicker in his fields than anywhere else ; the rain

always made a point of setting in just as he had some outdoor work to do ; so that though his patrimonial estate had dwindled away under his management, acre by acre, until there was little more left than a mere patch of Indian corn and potatoes, yet it was the worst-conditioned farm in the neighbourhood.

WASHINGTON IRVING.

NOTES.—These two paragraphs can be readily combined into one shorter paragraph, which briefly sums up the character of Rip van Winkle. Note that the author is not afraid to repeat the pronoun "he." If you do not begin by saying that Rip would not exert himself, you will have missed the first important point in the description. Give the extract a good heading and sub-heading.

## VIII

The maiden Arachne had attained such skill in the arts of weaving and embroidery that the nymphs themselves would leave their groves and fountains to come and gaze upon her work. "Minerva, goddess of wisdom, must have taught her," they said. But this she denied, and could not bear to be thought a pupil, even of a goddess. "Let Minerva try her skill with mine," she said, "and, if beaten, I will pay the penalty."

Minerva took the form of an old woman and visited Arachne. "Do not compete with a goddess," she said, "but ask her forgiveness for what you have said." "I am not afraid," said Arachne proudly. "Let her try her skill if she dare venture." "She comes," cried the goddess, and stood confessed, whereupon Arachne sank down in a swoon.

But the contest took place, and Arachne's work was so beautiful that Minerva struck the web and rent it in pieces. Then she touched the forehead of the maiden, and made her feel her guilt and shame so much that she could not endure it and went and hanged herself.

Then Minerva pitied her. " You shall live," she cried, " but you shall always hang suspended by a cord." She touched her again, and transformed her into a spider.

Adapted from BULFINCH'S *Age of Fable*.

NOTES.—Set this down as reported speech, as in the case of No. V. Begin, " Even the nymphs came to gaze . . . saying that Minerva," etc. The précis should form one paragraph only. Give heading and sub-heading to the story. If you had just read it, and some one asked you what it was about, what would you reply ?

## IX

The edges and corners of the box were carved with most wonderful skill. Around the margin there were figures of graceful men and women, and the prettiest children ever seen, reclining or sporting amid a profusion of flowers and foliage ; and these objects were so exquisitely represented, and were wrought together in such harmony, that flowers, foliage, and human beings seemed to combine into a wreath of mingled beauty. But here and there, peeping forth from behind the carved foliage, Pandora once or twice fancied that she saw a face not so lovely, or something or other that was disagreeable, which stole the beauty out of all the rest. Nevertheless, on looking more closely, and touching the spot with her finger, she could discover nothing of the kind. Some face that was really beautiful had been made to look ugly by her catching a sidewise glimpse of it. The most beautiful face of all was done in what is called high relief, in the centre of the lid. There was nothing else save the dark, smooth richness of the polished wood, and this one face in the centre, with a garland of flowers about its brow.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

NOTES.—Begin, " The box was carved on edges and corners with figures . . . all combined into . . ." Form

a habit of looking ahead before writing. Sometimes it is advisable to begin at the *end* of a long sentence and work backwards. For example, the last two sentences can be made to run together into one, beginning, "The dark smooth lid," etc.

## X

"It is wrong to scold him," said the mother-snail ; "he creeps so very carefully. He will be the joy of our home, and we old folks have nothing else to live for. But have you ever thought where we are to get a wife for him ? Do you think that farther out in the wood there may be others of our distinguished race ? "

"There may be black snails, no doubt," said the old father-snail ; "black snails without houses ; but they are so vulgar and conceited as well. But we can give the ants a commission ; they run here and there, as if they all had a great deal of business to get through. Most likely they will know of a wife for our youngster."

"I certainly know a most beautiful bride," said one of the ants ; "but I fear she would not do, for she is a queen."

"That does not matter," said the father-snail ; "has she a house ? "

"She has a palace," replied the ant—"a most beautiful ant-palace with seven hundred passages."

"Thank you very much," said the mother-snail quite politely but firmly ; "but our boy shall not go to live in an ant-hill. If you know of nothing better, we will give the commission to the white gnats ; they fly about in rain and sunshine ; they know the burdock wood from end to end."

"We know of a wife for him," said one of the gnats. "A hundred man-steps from here is a little snail with a house, sitting on a gooseberry-bush ; she is quite alone, and old enough to be married. It is only a hundred man-steps from here."

"Then let her be brought to him," said the old people. "He has the whole burdock forest ; she has only a bush."

So they brought the little lady-snail. She took eight days to perform the journey ; but that was just as it ought to be, for it showed her to be one of aristocratic breeding. And then they had a wedding.

HANS ANDERSEN.

NOTES.—The spaces show where the précis might be divided, the nine paragraphs of the original being reduced to three. Render the story in reported speech, beginning, "The mother-snail said it was wrong to scold such a careful creeper, who was his parents' chief concern and who now needed a wife. Did her husband think," etc.

## XI

"What sort of people live about here ?" asked Alice.

"In *that* direction," the Cheshire Cat said, waving its right paw round, "lives a Hatter : and in *that* direction," waving the other paw, "lives a March Hare. Visit either you like : they're both mad."

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat : "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad ?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

Alice didn't think that proved it at all ; however, she went on, "And how do you know that you're mad ?"

"To begin with," said the Cat, "a dog's not mad. You grant that ?"

"I suppose so," said Alice.

"Well, then," the Cat went on, "you see a dog

growls when it's angry, and wags its tail when it's pleased. Now I growl when I'm pleased, and wag my tail when I'm angry. Therefore I'm mad."

"I call it purring, not growling," said Alice.

"Call it what you like," said the Cat. "Do you play croquet with the Queen to-day?"

"I should like it very much," said Alice, "but I haven't been invited yet."

"You'll see me there," said the Cat, and vanished.

NOTES.—Make an attempt at close précis of the above, using reported speech. If you think the result really gives the substance of the conversation, complete the exercise; if not, desist, but not until you have tested the matter properly and obtained a valid reason for giving up the task.

If you give it up, try to make a short summary telling what Alice and the Cat talked about.

Give a heading and a sub-heading to the extract.

## XII

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner-stone thereof?

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? *Book of Job.*

NOTES.—Is this a suitable passage for précis? Give reasons for your answer. If you think it is not, in what way could you describe or summarize the "subject" or argument of the extract?

## XIII

At what precise minute that little airy musician, the lark, doffs his night gear, and prepares to tune up his unseasonable matins, we are not naturalist enough to determine. But for a mere human gentleman—that has no orchestra business to call him from his warm bed to such preposterous exercises—we take ten, or half after ten (eleven, of course, during this Christmas solstice), to be the very earliest hour, at which he can begin to think of abandoning his pillow. To think of it, we say ; for to do it in earnest, requires another half-hour's good consideration. Not but there are pretty sun-risings, as we are told, and such like gawds, abroad in the world, in summer time especially, some hours before what we have assigned ; which a gentleman may see, as they say, only for getting up. But, having been tempted, once or twice, in earlier life, to assist at those ceremonies, we confess our curiosity abated. We are no longer ambitious of being the sun's courtiers, to attend at his morning levées. We hold the good hours of the dawn too sacred to waste them upon such observances ; which have in them, besides, something Pagan and Persic. To say truth, we never anticipated our usual hour, or got up with the sun (as 'tis called), to go a journey, or upon a foolish whole day's pleasuring, but we suffered for it all the long hours after in listlessness and headaches.

CHARLES LAMB.

NOTES.—It seems sacrilegious to summarize this delicate fancy—to destroy the fun and irony by translation into a bald outline. In what other way, or ways, would it be possible to tell any one who had not read the passage what it is about ?

## XIV

“Always talking about grapes and figs!” cried Pandora pettishly. “Well, then,” said Epimetheus, who

was a very good-tempered child, like a multitude of children in those days, "let us run out and have a merry time with our playmates." "I am tired of merry times, and I don't care if I never have any more!" answered our pettish little Pandora. "And, besides, I never do have any. This ugly box! I am so taken up with thinking about it all the time. I insist upon your telling me what is inside of it." "As I have already said, fifty times over, I do not know!" replied Epimetheus, getting a little vexed. "How, then, can I tell you what is inside?" "You might open it," said Pandora, looking sidewise at Epimetheus, "and then we could see for ourselves."

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

NOTES.—Render this as reported speech. The clause "who was a very good-tempered child" reduces to the simple adjective "good-tempered," which is placed before the boy's name. Note also that if Pandora is "tired of merry times" it may be taken for granted that she doesn't care if she "never has any more."

## XV

Why do we call the president of a banquet the "Chairman" and say that he "takes the chair"? The phrase is a survival from days when the chair was regarded as a symbol of authority, which none but the owner of the house or a distinguished stranger might venture to occupy:—

Until the close of the Middle Ages benches, settles, and forms were the ordinary seats in hall and chamber. To these should be added the chest which, though not specifically designed as a seat, was commonly used for this purpose by all classes of society. . . . Movable chairs were exceedingly scarce.

In much later times the stool was the ordinary seat, and when chairs began to be made in greater quan-

ties it became a nice point in ceremonial etiquette to decide who was entitled to sit on them :—

Even after the Restoration the chair still retained its function as the seat of honour, and when a great personage was present he would occupy it, lesser folk sitting on stools. Thus, when Cosmo III. was at Wilton in 1669, the Earl of Pembroke had only one chair set at the dinner table, and it was the duke who insisted that a second one should be provided for his hostess. Even at Court, at a time when chairs were made in sets and produced in large numbers, on ceremonial occasions they continued to be regarded with a degree of reverence as serving to indicate differences in station. This traditional view of the dignity confered by the possession of a chair is illustrated in a letter from Lord Conway to the Earl of Essex of 1673, in which he relates that when the King ordered one to be brought for the Duchess of Modena in the Queen's Presence Chamber, "Lady Suffolk, my Lady Falmouth, and the rest of the ladyes to the number of twenty that were of the nobility ran out of the room, as thinking themselves of equal quality to the Duchess of Modena." More than fifty years later a dispute of a similar character arose on the occasion of the marriage of Frederick, Prince of Wales. The English Princesses refused to sit on stools while Frederick and his bride occupied chairs at dinner, and remained in the ante-chamber until they carried their point.

NOTES.—This passage is taken from a review of a book on furniture in history, and the portions in smaller type are quoted from the volume itself. Fairly close précis might be made of it in two paragraphs. All the names need not be included in the précis. For example, "in a letter . . . 1673" might be shortened to "a nobleman's letter of 1673." Give heading and sub-heading to the passage.

## XVI

Vast possibilities are opened up by the proposed development of Northern and North-Western Australia.

Mr. George A. Hobler, Chief Engineer of Ways and Works of the Commonwealth Department of Federal Railways, Australia, who is at present on a visit to the British Isles, has during the last four or five years been called upon by the Federal Government to travel especially through a large portion of the little known and remote parts of Northern and Central Australia, and to furnish full reports on the possibilities of that country.

Mr. Hobler says that in Northern Australia, by the construction of railways, harbours, etc., and the proper development and settlement of the country, many millions of both sheep and cattle can be raised. In regard to agriculture, mixed farming and dairying, there is unlimited land with suitable soil, climate, and water available.

Minerals and metals exist in great quantities throughout the whole of Northern Australia, and in certain portions, with the proper opening out of the country by railway, roads, etc., would undoubtedly provide a rich return for many millions of capital.

"It is impossible," says Mr. Hobler, "for any one with this knowledge not to feel strongly the immense appeal of this vast, rich, and lonely land which holds such great resources of wealth ready for the well-being and prosperity of those who assuredly will sooner or later enter and develop it."

NOTES.—The above five paragraphs might be combined into one, or two at the most. Render the passage as reported speech. Describe the official simply as "Australian Railways Engineer."

## XVII

Holding these views, it may seem strange that I should wish now to say what I have further to say. It is that we must be careful, in our resolute move for

peace, not to be heedless of present danger, and that it seems to me the present danger lies in contentment with half-measures. Of half-measures towards peace I will say nothing, but of half-measures towards, I will not say war, but defence, I think something must be said. It is simply this : that, so long as we have an army, that is, so long as, by national assent, we prepare in that way for the defence of our country, it would be not only in the highest degree illogical, but in the highest degree dangerous, if the army did not put itself in a posture to deal with the kind of warfare which, to the best of my judgment, the most competent military authorities of this and other countries believe to be the warfare of the future, if warfare at all continues. I am no longer in the army, and have lived an entirely civilian life since I left it, but I am still burdened with the responsibility I felt on leaving the Gas Service—namely, that of trying to make clear, when it was necessary, that gas warfare had established itself permanently, and of helping to secure that, so long as the old order remained and the British Army was maintained for our national defence against foreign foes, it would be indispensable for the Army to give the fullest attention to gas warfare.

NOTES.—The above, taken from a letter to the press, is a good example of circumlocution and verbosity. A "close" précis ought not to contain more than twenty-four words.

## XVIII

It is autumn, and we are standing on the ramparts round the citadel, looking at the ships sailing on the Sound, and at the opposite coast of Sweden which stands out clearly in the evening sunlight. Behind us the ramparts fall away steeply ; around are stately trees from which the golden leaves are falling fast. Down below us we see some dark and gloomy build-

ings, surrounded with wooden palisades, and inside these, where the sentries are walking up and down, it is darker still, yet not so gloomy as it is behind yon iron grating ; that is where the worst convicts are confined. A ray from the setting sun falls into the bare room. The sun shines upon good and bad alike ! The gloomy, savage prisoner looks bitterly at the chilly sunbeam. A little bird flutters against the grating. The bird sings to good and bad alike ! It twitters softly for a little while, and remains perched, flutters its wings, picks a feather from its breast, and puffs its plumage up. The man in chains looks at it ; a milder expression steals over his face. A thought which is not quite clear to himself steals into his heart ; it is related to the sunshine coming through the grating, related to the scent of violets, which in spring grow so thickly outside the window. Now is heard the music of a huntsman's horn, clear and lively ; the bird flies away from the grating, the sunbeam disappears, and all is dark again in the narrow cell, dark in the heart of the man. Yet the sun has shone into it, and the bird has sung its song.

Continue, ye merry notes ! The evening is mild, the sea is calm and bright as any mirror.

HANS ANDERSEN.

NOTES.—It is not easy to make close précis of this passage, because each phrase and epithet seems to be necessary. Try to make a very short summary, or to draw up such notes as the author might have jotted down to form a preliminary sketch for his word picture. If this does not satisfy you, give a heading and a sub-heading, both of a non-sensational character.

## XIX

But whether or not I am guilty of vanity, it is a bold action in any man publicly to charge another with vanity ; a bolder action still to declare, as Mr.

Porter declares of me, that all I have written in these pages is rooted in vanity, and corrupted by it. Whether the charge is true or not, I will not attempt to argue. I will not say how much it tries me ; how it works upon my nature ; how it grates upon my feelings. I do not care for that.

" I can endure as well as another man. But what I have to hope, and what you have to hope, Mr. Porter (otherwise a great responsibility rests upon you), is, that this may not alter my ideas of humanity ; that it may not impair my freshness, or contact, if I may use the expression, my Pinions. It may be a comfort to you, if not now, at some future time, to know that I shall endeavour not to think the worse of my fellow-creatures in general, for what has passed between us. That, I hasten to say, is no small consolation to me. It is a relief. But having discharged—I hope with tolerable firmness—the duty which I owed to society, I will now, my dear sir, if you will give me leave, retire to shed a few tears in the back garden, as an humble individual.

CHARLES DICKENS.

NOTES.—This contains a good deal of verbosity, because the author is delineating a wordy man who tries to impose upon other people as he imposes upon himself. Render it as reported speech, beginning, " The speaker said," etc.

## XX

We had now come in full view of the old family mansion, partly thrown in deep shadow, and partly lit up by the cold moonshine. It is an irregular building, of some magnitude, and seemed to be of the architecture of different periods. One wing was evidently very ancient, with heavy stone-shafted bow windows jutting out and overrun with ivy, from among the foliage of which the small diamond-shaped

panes of glass glittered with the moonbeams. The rest of the house was in the French taste of Charles the Second's time, having been repaired and altered, as my friend told me, by one of his ancestors, who returned with that monarch at the Restoration.

The grounds about the house were laid out in the old formal manner of artificial flower-beds, clipped shrubberies, raised terraces, and heavy stone balustrades, ornamented with urns, a leaden statue or two, and a jet of water. The old gentleman, I was told, was extremely careful to preserve this obsolete finery in all its original state. He admired this fashion in gardening ; it had an air of magnificence, was courtly and noble, and befitting good old family style. The boasted imitation of nature in modern gardening had sprung up with modern republican notions, but did not suit a monarchical government ; it smacked of the levelling system.—I could not help smiling at this introduction of politics into gardening, though I expressed some apprehension that I should find the old gentleman rather intolerant in his creed.—Frank assured me, however, that it was almost the only instance in which he had ever heard his father meddle with politics ; and he believed that he had got this notion from a member of parliament who once passed a few weeks with him. The squire was glad of any argument to defend his clipped yew-trees and formal terraces, which had been occasionally attacked by modern landscape-gardeners.

WASHINGTON IRVING.

NOTES.—This is so well expressed that we hesitate to make close précis of it ; but it can be rendered into reported speech. Read a few sentences before beginning, “The old family mansion, viewed by moonlight, was seen to be large and irregular, partly ancient, with stone-shafted, diamond-paned windows, partly of the period of Charles II. (*or* late Caroline),” etc. Translate “I” as “the writer,” but do not use this expression more than once or twice. Give a heading to the extract.

## XXI

In this cold weather the Reptile House, which was supplied with a new heating system last autumn, is one of the pleasantest resorts at the Zoo. Nearly all the fish which were formerly exhibited there have now been transferred to the Aquarium tanks, and the new Curator has had the opportunity of making many changes which will give the snakes, lizards, crocodiles, and terrapins better accommodation. The high spirits induced by the more genial temperature add to the health and appearance of the reptiles, but also increase the risk of handling them.

The poisonous snakes are not the most difficult to tackle, as few of them are specially strong or specially irritable. Most trouble has been given by a giant python, which, with a mate, occupied one of the large cages. It was desired to move it to a smaller adjoining cage in order that its own compartment might be cleaned out and provided with a more suitable bath and sliding partitions for convenience in shutting it off for cleaning purposes. Force could not be used as it would have required a dozen strong men to hold it, and the first few who entered the den would have had to face alarming trouble. It was deprived of its bath, but seemed contented with the empty tank ; the substitution of cold for warm water only made it sulky ; its prey (freshly killed rabbits and fowls) was dangled in its view in the cage into which it was to be lured, but it either took no notice or was so quick as to get the food and retreat again to its old home. After some weeks it was shifted by a steady spray of warm water with an unpleasant disinfectant, and now its home is being refitted.

The crocodiles, alligators, and gharials show a marked difference of natural disposition. The gharials, now in the Tortoise House, are quick, savage, and

cunning. They appear to take no notice of the keeper, but their alert little eyes are watching him unceasingly, and if there seems the slightest chance their narrow and well-armed jaws are shot out at him. Alligators even of large size are dangerous only in a blundering way ; they might mistake a hand or arm for food and snap at it by mistake. But young alligators become tame very easily, and can be handled and petted with safety. Adult crocodiles are always treacherous, and baby crocodiles in good health have always bad tempers. Pond nurseries have been made for the young crocodilians, which have to be carefully graded in size, as the smaller ones are frequently attacked and always bullied by their larger relatives.

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(with acknowledgments).

NOTES.—This is a piece of excellent description, which provides good material for close précis in the ratio of about 4 to 1. Give a heading and a sub-heading to the passage. The précis might consist of three paragraphs. Render a passage like "The crocodiles . . . disposition" as "Crocodiles, alligators, and gharials differ greatly." In dealing with the sentence, "But young alligators . . . safety," the second portion may be omitted, as it follows naturally from the first.

## XXII

From the island of Iona was Aidan sent to instruct the English nation in Christ, having received the dignity of a bishop, when, among other instructions for life, he left the clergy a most salutary example of abstinence. It was the highest commendation of his doctrine with all men that he taught not otherwise than he and his followers had lived ; for he neither sought nor loved anything of this world, but de-

lighted in distributing immediately among the poor whatsoever was given him by the kings or rich men of the world.

He was wont to traverse both town and country on foot, never on horseback, unless compelled by some urgent necessity ; and wherever in his way he saw any, either rich or poor, he invited them, if infidels, to embrace the mystery of the faith, or if they were believers, to strengthen them in the faith, and to stir them up by words and actions to alms and good works.

His course of life was so different from the slothfulness of our times that all those who bore him company, whether they were shorn monks or laymen, were employed in meditation—that is, either in reading the Scriptures or learning psalms. This was the daily employment of himself and all that were with him, wheresoever they went ; and if it happened, which was but seldom, that he was invited to eat with the king, he went with one or two clerks, and having taken a small repast, made haste to be gone with them, either to read or write.

He never gave money to the powerful men of the world, but only meat, if he happened to entertain them, and, on the contrary, whatsoever gifts of money he received from the rich he either distributed them, as has been said, for the use of the poor, or bestowed them in ransoming such as had been wrongfully sold for slaves. Moreover, he afterwards made many of those he had ransomed his disciples, and after having taught and instructed them, advanced them to the order of priesthood.

NOTES.—This paragraph from an old chronicle forms a character study, and offers good material for fairly close précis, written in succinct modern English. Some rearrangement of the order of thought expression will be necessary, for old chroniclers were inclined to ramble and digress. Give a good heading to the extract.

## XXIII

In the preceding arguments for universal suffrage I have taken no account of difference of sex. I consider it to be as entirely irrelevant to political rights as difference in height or in the colour of the hair.

All human beings have the same interest in good government ; the welfare of all is alike affected by it and they have equal need of a voice in it to secure their share in its benefits. If there be any difference, women require it more than men since, being physically weaker, they are more dependent on society and law for protection.

No one now holds that women should be in personal servitude ; that they should have no thought, wish, or occupation but to be the domestic drudges of husbands, fathers, or brothers.

It is allowed to unmarried, and wants but little of being conceded to married women, to hold property and have pecuniary and business interests, in the same manner as men. It is considered suitable and proper that women should think, and write, and be teachers. As soon as these things are admitted, the political disqualification has no principle to rest on.

Were it right, as it is wrong, that women should be a subordinate class, confined to domestic occupations and subject to domestic authority, they would not the less require the protection of the suffrage to secure them from the abuse of that authority.

*Men, as well as women, do not need political rights in order that they may govern, but in order that they may not be misgoverned.*

Nobody pretends to think that women would make a bad use of the suffrage. The worst that is said is, that they would vote as mere dependants, at the bidding of their male relations. If it be so, so let it be. If they think for themselves, great good will be done,

and if they do not, no harm. It is a benefit to human beings to take off their fetters, even if they do not desire to walk.

It would already be a great improvement in the moral position of women to be no longer declared by law incapable of an opinion, and not entitled to a preference respecting the most important concerns of humanity. There would be some benefit to them individually in having something to bestow which their male relatives cannot exact and are yet desirous to have. It would also be no small matter that the husband would necessarily discuss the matter with his wife, and that the vote would not be his exclusive affair, but a joint concern.

The vote itself, too, would be improved in quality. The man would often be obliged to find honest reasons for his vote, such as might induce a more upright and impartial character to serve with him under the same banner. The wife's influence would often keep him true to his own sincere opinion.

Give the woman a vote, and she comes under the operation of the political point of honour. She learns to look on politics as a thing on which she is allowed to have an opinion and in which, if one has an opinion, it ought to be acted upon ; she acquires a sense of personal accountability in the matter.

There is something more than ordinarily irrational in the fact that when a woman can give all the guarantees required from a male elector—*independent* circumstances, the position of a householder, and head of a family, payment of taxes, or whatever may be the conditions imposed—the very principle and system of a representation based on property is set aside, and an exceptionally personal disqualifications is created for the mere purpose of excluding her.

When it is added that, in the country where this is done, a woman now reigns, and that the most glorious ruler whom that country ever had was a woman, the

picture of unreason, and scarcely disguised injustice, is complete.

Let us hope that . . . before the lapse of another generation, the accident of sex, no more than the accident of skin, will not be deemed a sufficient justification for depriving its possessor of the equal protection and just privileges of a citizen.

JOHN STUART MILL.

NOTES.—The above is a closely reasoned argument for giving votes to women by the famous philosopher and writer, John Stuart Mill, and is taken from a book published in 1861, some sixty years before the franchise was granted. Several of the paragraphs might be summed up in a sentence. For example, "In politics, sex matters as little as height or colour of the hair."

#### XXIV

The cries of London may be divided into vocal and instrumental. As for the latter, they are at present under a very great disorder. A freeman of London has the privilege of disturbing a whole street, for an hour together, with the twanging of a brass kettle or a frying-pan. The watchman's thump at midnight startles us in our beds as much as the breaking in of a thief. The pig-dealer's horn has indeed something musical in it, but this is seldom heard within the City bounds. I would therefore propose, that no instrument of this nature should be made use of, which I have not tuned and licensed, after having carefully examined in what manner it may affect the ears of her Majesty's liege subjects.

Vocal cries are of a much larger extent, and, indeed, so full of incongruities and barbarisms, that we appear a distracted city to foreigners, who do not comprehend the meaning of such enormous outcries. Milk is generally sold in a note above *ela*, and it sounds so exceeding shrill, that it often sets our teeth on edge.

The chimney-sweeper is confined to no certain pitch ; he sometimes utters himself in the deepest bass, and sometimes in the sharpest treble ; sometimes in the highest and sometimes in the lowest note of the gamut. The same observation might be made on the retailers of small coal, not to mention broken glasses or brick-dust. In these, therefore, and the like cases, it should be my care to sweeten and mellow the voices of these itinerant tradesmen, before they make their appearance in our streets, as also to accommodate their cries to their respective wares ; and to take care in particular that those may not make the most noise who have the least to sell, which is very observable in the vendors of card-matches, to whom I cannot but apply that old proverb of " Much cry, but little wool."

Some of these last-mentioned musicians are so very loud in the sale of these trifling manufactures, that an honest splenetic gentleman of my acquaintance bargained with one of them never to come into the street where he lived : but what was the effect of this contract ? Why, the whole tribe of card-match-makers which frequent the quarter passed by his door the very next day, in hopes of being bought off after the same manner.

It is another great imperfection in our London cries, that there is no just time nor measure observed in them. Our news should, indeed, be published in a very quick time, because it is a commodity that will not keep cold. It should not, however, be cried with the same precipitation as " fire " : yet this is generally the case. A bloody battle alarms the town from one end to another in an instant. Every motion of the French is published in so great a hurry, that one would think the enemy were at our gates. This likewise I would take upon me to regulate in such a manner, that there should be some distinction made between the spreading of a victory, a march, or an encampment, a Dutch, a Portugal, or a Spanish mail.

Nor must I omit under this head, those excessive alarms with which several boisterous rustics infest our streets in turnip season ; and which are more inexcusable, because these are wares which are in no danger of cooling upon their hands.

There are others who affect a very slow time, and are, in my opinion, much more tunable than the former ; the cooper, in particular, swells his last note in an hollow voice, that is not without its harmony : nor can I forbear being inspired with a most agreeable melancholy, when I hear that sad and solemn air with which the public is very often asked, if they have any chairs to mend ? Your own memory may suggest to you many other lamentable ditties of the same nature, in which the music is wonderfully languishing and melodious.

I am always pleased with that particular time of the year which is proper for the pickling of dill and cucumbers ; but, alas, this cry, like the song of the nightingale, is not heard above two months. It would, therefore, be worth while to consider whether the same air might not in some cases be adapted to other words.

JOSEPH ADDISON.

NOTES.—It is difficult to make close précis from the above extract. Try the first paragraph, and if you are dissatisfied, suggest some other way of summarizing the information which the extract supplies about the street cries of the time of Addison. For example, historical notes might be drawn up such as might be used for an essay on *Town Life in the Eighteenth Century*. Give a heading and a sub-heading (also a sub-sub-heading if you can) to the passage. If you make close précis of the whole description, render it as reported speech.

## xxv

If any would know what manner of man King William was, the glory that he obtained, and of how many lands he was lord, then will we describe him as

we have known him, we who have looked upon him, and who once lived in his court. This King William of whom we are speaking was a very wise and a great man, and more honoured and more powerful than any of his predecessors. He was mild to those good men who loved God, but severe beyond measure towards those who withheld his will. He founded a noble monastery on the spot where God permitted him to conquer England, and he established monks in it, and he made it very rich. In his days the great monastery at Canterbury was built, and many others also throughout England. Moreover, this land was filled with monks who lived after the rule of St. Benedict ; and such was the state of religion in his days that all that would might observe that which was prescribed by their respective orders.

King William was also held in much reverence. He wore his crown three times every year when he was in England : at Easter he wore it at Winchester, at Pentecost at Westminster, and at Christmas at Gloucester. And at these times all the men of England were with him—archbishops, bishops, abbots and earls, thanes and knights.

So also was he a very stern and a wrathful man, so that none durst do anything against his will, and he kept in prison those earls who acted against his pleasure. He removed bishops from their sees and abbots from their offices, and he imprisoned thanes, and at length he spared not his own brother Odo. This Odo was a very powerful bishop in Normandy ; his see was that of Bayeux, and he was foremost to serve the king. He had an earldom in England, and when William was in Normandy he was the first man in this country. And even him did he cast into prison.

Amongst other things, the good order that William established is not to be forgotten ; it was such that any man, who was himself aught, might travel over the kingdom with a bosom-full of gold unmolested ;

and no man durst kill another, however great the injury he might have received from him. He reigned over England, and, being sharp-sighted to his own interest, he surveyed the kingdom so thoroughly that there was not a single hide of land throughout the whole of which he knew not the possessor and how much it was worth, and this he afterwards entered in his register. The land of the Britons was under his sway, and he built castles therein. Moreover, he had full dominion over the Isle of Man (Anglesey) ; Scotland also was subject to him from his great strength ; the land of Normandy was his by inheritance, and he possessed the earldom of Maine ; and had he lived two years longer he would have subdued Ireland by his prowess, and that without a battle. Truly there was much trouble in these times, and very great distress ; he caused castles to be built, and oppressed the poor.

The king was also of great sternness, and he took from his subjects many marks of gold and many hundred pounds of silver, and this either with or without right and with little need. He was given to avarice, and greedily loved gain. He made large forests for the deer, and enacted laws therewith, so that whoever killed a hart or a hind should be blinded. As he forbade killing the deer, so also the boars ; and he loved the tall stags as if he were their father. He also appointed concerning the hares that they should go free. The rich complained and the poor murmured, but he was so sturdy that he recked nought of them : they must will all that the king willed if they would live, or would keep their lands, or would hold their possessions, or would be maintained in their rights.

Alas ! that any man should so exalt himself, and carry himself in his pride over all ! May Almighty God show mercy to his soul, and grant him the forgiveness of his sins ! We have written concerning him

these things, both good and bad, that virtuous men might follow after the good and wholly avoid the evil, and might go in the way that leadeth to the kingdom of heaven.

*The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.*

NOTES.—The above is rather verbose, after the manner of old chronicles, and it is easy to make close précis of it. Render it as reported speech. Begin, “ King William is described as follows by one who lived at his Court.” It will be necessary to use “ he ” very often, but “ the king,” “ the monarch,” etc., might occasionally be used for variation. Try to find single epithets for phrases—for example, “ self-willed ” for “ none durst do anything against his will.” Jump sentences, and then re-traverse the portion passed over—for example :—

... his own brother Odo. This Odo was a very powerful bishop in Normandy ; his see was that of Bayeux, and he was foremost to serve the king. He had an earldom in England, and when William was in Normandy he was the first man in this country. And even him did he cast into prison.

... his brother Odo, whom he imprisoned, though he was Bishop of Bayeux in Normandy, an English earl, loyal to his brother, and next to him in rank.

## XXVI

*Witness.* Did your Lordship notice that point about sub-tenants, because that is a very important point for Dublin ?

*Chairman.* Tell us about that in a word.

*W.* We have several cases of sub-tenants being evicted, or attempts made to evict them, on the plea that they were sub-tenants, where the middleman between the landlord and the sub-tenant was prohibited under his agreement from sub-letting. Now I want the Committee to understand the position. In Dublin we have many very large old houses, which

were once single dwellings occupied by the nobility and gentry 100 or 150 years ago. Those houses are now all sub-let out as tenements, but the old agreements in many cases still exist. These agreements under which they are held absolutely prohibit sub-letting, and the landlord lets them out in tenements. The other day we had a case in which two people were involved ; and those two tenants were absolutely evicted because an old agreement was brought into Court which contained a clause prohibiting sub-letting.

C. They were technically trespassers ?

W. Technically.

C. No one had ever treated them as trespassers for years and years ?

W. That is so.

C. What you say is, the landlord was quite aware of it, and only revived the technical powers because he wished to obtain possession ?

W. Yes. What we suspected was this : The landlord did not know anything at all about this agreement, but it was some party interested in exploiting the property who dug it up and brought it into Court. On that another point arises : namely, the suggestion which we have made from the Town Tenants' League. You have a suggested amendment from us on it, I think. It arises out of those two cases I mentioned just now of an Army and a Navy man ; the suggestion is to give to the tenant the right of an appeal from Quarter Sessions to the High Court.

C. That is a different point.

W. It is a very important point, not only in Ireland but in England ; because a poor man cannot afford the expense of an action in the High Court. As a matter of fact I may say that if the landlords generally wished, they could defeat, as the law stands at present, all the operation of your Acts, by bringing, as they have a right to bring in law, all actions for ejectment into the High Court, which is a tremendous

hardship on poor people. In that case of the Navy man, he could never pay the bill of costs. I think it came to £11, 11s. 8d. I can hand it in if you wish.

C. I want to ask you quite generally: Have you formed any opinion, or do you admit, that the rents must be allowed to go up a little?

W. I do not.

C. Not at all?

W. Not at all.

C. Given the house is in good sanitary repair, you admit the cost of keeping up the current repairs is much more than it was in the period before the war?

W. I do.

C. And therefore the landlord ought to have something to represent that?

W. In answer to that, what we think in Ireland is that during the war the landlords have not kept the houses in repair, and the tenant ought not to be forced to make good the landlord's dereliction of duty.

NOTES.—The above passage\* was set for précis at the General School Examination, University of London, 1924, the suggested ratio being 3 to 1. It must be read again and again before any attempt at précis is made. Then begin, "At the Chairman's request the witness explained," etc. It is obvious that sentences like, "Now I want the Committee to understand the position," "What we expected was this," may be disregarded. (In an examination it is a good plan to score out with a pencil all unnecessary matter of this kind before an attempt is made to write the précis.) The précis might consist of two or three paragraphs, in order to avoid breathlessness. Further practice in making this kind of précis can be obtained from newspaper reports of legal suits.

#### XXVII

The Utopians detest war as a very brutal thing, which, to the reproach of our human nature, is more

\* Reprinted with acknowledgments to the authorities of the University.

practised by men than by any sort of beasts. They, in opposition to the sentiments of almost all other nations, think that there is nothing more inglorious than that glory that is gained by war ; and therefore, though they accustom themselves daily to military exercises and the discipline of war, in which not only their men but their women likewise are trained up, that in cases of necessity they may not be quite useless, yet they do not rashly engage in war, unless it be either to defend themselves or their friends from any unjust aggressors, or, out of good nature or in compassion, assist an oppressed nation in shaking off the yoke of tyranny. They indeed help their friends, not only in defensive, but also in offensive wars ; but they never do that unless they had been consulted before the breach was made, and, being satisfied with the grounds on which they went, they found that all demands of reparation were rejected, so that a war was unavoidable. This they think to be not only just when one neighbour makes an inroad on another, either under pretence of some unjust laws or by the perverse wresting of good ones. This they count a juster cause of war than the other, because those injuries are done under some colour of laws. This was the only ground of that war in which they engaged with the Nephelogetes against the Aleopolitanes a little before our time. For the merchants of the former having, as they thought, met with great injustice among the latter, which (whether it was in itself right or wrong) drew on a terrible war, in which many of their neighbours were engaged ; and their keenness in carrying it on being supported by their strength in maintaining it, it not only shook some very flourishing States and very much afflicted others, but, after a series of much mischief, ended in the entire conquest and slavery of the Aleopolitanes, who, though before the war they were in all respects much superior to the Nephelogetes, were yet subdued ; but though the Utopians had

assisted them in the war, yet they pretended to no share of the spoil.

But though they so vigorously assist their friends in obtaining reparation for the injuries they have received in affairs of this nature, yet if any such frauds were committed against themselves, provided no violence was done to their persons, they would only, on their being refused satisfaction, forbear trading with such a people. This is not because they consider their neighbours more than their own citizens ; but since their neighbours trade every one upon his own stock, fraud is a more sensible injury to them than it is to the Utopians, among whom the public in such a case only suffers, as they expect nothing in return for the merchandise they export but that in which they do so much abound, and is of little use to them, and the loss does not much affect them. They think, therefore, it would be too severe to revenge a loss attended with so little inconvenience either to their lives or their subsistence with the death of many persons ; but if any of their people are either killed or wounded wrongfully, whether it be done by public authority or only by private men, as soon as they hear of it they send ambassadors, and demand that the guilty persons may be delivered up to them, and if that is denied, they declare war ; but if it be complied with, the offenders are condemned either to death or slavery.

They would be both troubled and ashamed of a bloody victory over their enemies, and think it would be as foolish as to buy the most valuable goods at too high a rate. And in no victory do they glory so much as in that which is gained by dexterity and good conduct without bloodshed. In such cases they appoint public triumphs, and erect trophies to the honour of those who have succeeded ; for then do they reckon that a man acts suitably to his nature when he conquers his enemy in such a way as that no other creature but a man could be capable of, and that is by the

strength of his understanding. Bears, lions, boars, wolves and dogs, and all other animals, employ their bodily force one against another, in which, as many of them are superior to man, both in strength and fierceness, so they are all subdued by his reason and understanding.

The only design of the Utopians in war is to obtain that by force which, if it had been granted them in time, would have prevented the war ; or, if that cannot be done, to take so severe a revenge on those who have injured them that they may be terrified from doing the like for the time to come. By these ends they measure all their designs, and manage them so that it is visible that the appetite of fame or vainglory does not work so much on them as a just care of their own security.

SIR THOMAS MORE.

NOTES.—This translation from the Latin of Sir Thomas More's *Utopia* provides excellent material for close précis in the ratio of 3 to 1, and the preparation of such précis is a good test of the reader's grip of the meaning of the passage. The four paragraphs of the original may be reduced to three in the précis. Give a heading and a sub-heading to the extract.

## XXVIII

In the following spring (A.D. 534) Gelimer, having received assurances of safety and honourable treatment, surrendered to the lieutenant of Belisarius, and was carried to Constantinople, whither the conqueror of Africa proceeded in the course of the same year. The chiefs of the Roman army, presuming to think themselves the rivals of an hero, had maliciously affirmed in their private dispatches that Belisarius,

*Gelimer.* The Vandal monarch who had been defeated by Belisarius not far from his capital city of Carthage in A.D. 533. At this time the Emperor Justinian was the ruler of the Eastern Empire.

strong in his reputation and the public love, conspired to seat himself on the throne of the Vandals.

Justinian listened with too patient an ear. An honourable alternative, of remaining in the province or of returning to the capital, was indeed submitted to the discretion of Belisarius ; but he wisely concluded, from intercepted letters and the knowledge of his sovereign's temper, that he must either resign his head, erect his standard, or confound his enemies by his presence and submission.

Innocence and courage decided his choice. His guards, captives, and treasures were diligently embarked ; and so prosperous was the navigation that his arrival in Constantinople preceded any certain account of his departure from the port of Carthage. Such unsuspecting loyalty removed the apprehensions of Justinian : envy was silenced and inflamed by the public gratitude, and the third Africanus obtained the honours of a triumph, a ceremony which the city of Constantine had never seen, and which ancient Rome, since the reign of Tiberius, had reserved for the auspicious arms of the Caesars.

From the palace of Belisarius the procession was conducted through the principal streets to the hippodrome, and this memorable day seemed to avenge the injuries of Genseric, and to expiate the shame of the Romans. The wealth of Genseric was displayed—the trophies of martial or effeminate luxury, the massy furniture of the royal banquet, the splendour of precious stones, the elegant forms of statues and vases, the more substantial treasure of gold, and the holy vessels of the Jewish temple, which after their long peregrination were respectfully deposited in the Christian church of Jerusalem. A long train of the noblest Vandals reluctantly exposed their lofty stature and manly countenance. Gelimer slowly advanced : he

*Genseric.* King of the Vandals in Spain, who had inflicted several defeats upon the Romans.

was clad in a purple robe, and still maintained the majesty of a king.

Not a tear escaped from his eyes, not a sigh was heard ; but his pride or piety derived some secret consolation from the words of Solomon, which he repeatedly pronounced, “**VANITY ! VANITY ! ALL IS VANITY !**” Instead of ascending the triumphal car drawn by four horses or elephants, the modest conqueror marched on foot at the head of his brave companions. The glorious procession entered the gate of the hippodrome ; was saluted by the acclamations of the Senate and people ; and halted before the throne where Justinian and Theodora were seated to receive the homage of the captive monarch and the victorious hero. Belisarius was immediately declared *consul* for the coming year (A.D. 535), and the day of his inauguration resembled the pomp of a second triumph : his curule chair was borne aloft on the shoulders of captive Vandals, and the spoils of war, gold cups and rich girdles, were profusely scattered among the populace.

Whenever he appeared in the streets and public places of Constantinople, Belisarius attracted and satisfied the eyes of the people. His lofty stature and majestic countenance fulfilled their expectations of a hero, and the meanest of his fellow-citizens were emboldened by his gentle and gracious demeanour. By the union of liberality and justice he acquired the love of the soldiers, without alienating the affections of the people. The sick and wounded were relieved with medicines and money, and still more efficaciously by the healing visits and smiles of their commander. He was endeared to the husbandmen by the peace and plenty which they enjoyed under the shadow of his standard. Instead of being injured, the country was enriched by the march of the Roman armies ; and such was the rigid discipline of their camp, that not an

apple was gathered from the tree, not a path could be traced in the fields of corn.

Belisarius was chaste and sober. In the licence of a military life, none could boast that they had seen him intoxicated. The spectator and historian of his exploits has observed that amidst the perils of war he was daring without rashness, prudent without fear, slow or rapid according to the exigencies of the moment ; that in the deepest distress he was animated by real or apparent hope, but that he was modest and humble in the most prosperous fortune. By these virtues he equalled or excelled the ancient masters of the military art. Victory, by sea and land, attended his arms. He subdued Africa, Italy, and the adjacent islands ; led away captives the successors of Genseric and Theodoric ; filled Constantinople with the spoils of their palaces ; and in the space of six years recovered half the provinces of the Western empire. In his fame and merit, in wealth and power, he remained without a rival ; the first of the Roman subjects, the voice of envy could only magnify his dangerous importance, and the emperor might applaud his own discerning spirit, which had discovered and raised the genius of Belisarius.

GIBBON :

*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.*

NOTES.—This is narrative of a very dignified character, history which is literature instead of the mere communication of facts. Each sentence and phrase appears to be necessary, and after reading the original and learning to appreciate its qualities of expression, we feel the baldness of a précis however carefully it is written. Try, therefore, to make a short summary of the extract which would help you to remember and recall the facts only. Give a heading to the passage.

## XXIX

The sentence of death was passed against him, by what majority we do not know. But Sokrates neither

altered his tone nor manifested any regret for the language by which he had himself seconded the purposes of his accusers. On the contrary, he told the Dikasts, in a short address prior to his departure for the prison, that he was satisfied both with his own conduct and with the result. The divine sign (he said) which was wont to restrain him, often on very small occasions, both in deeds and in words, had never manifested itself to him once throughout the whole day, neither when he came hither at first, nor at any one point throughout his whole discourse. The tacit acquiescence of this infallible monitor satisfied him not only that he had spoken rightly, but that the sentence passed was in reality no evil to him ; that to die now was the best thing which could befall him. Either death was tantamount to a sound, perpetual, and dreamless sleep—which in his judgment would be no loss, but rather a gain, compared with the present life ; or else, if the common myths were true, death would transfer him to a second life in Hades, where he would find all the heroes of the Trojan War, and of the past generally—so as to pursue in conjunction with them the business of mutual cross-examination, and debate with them on ethical progress and perfection.

There can be no doubt that the sentence really appeared to Sokrates in this point of view, and to his friends also, after the event had happened—though doubtless not at the time when they were about to lose him. He took his line of defence advisedly, and with full knowledge of the result. It supplied him with the fittest of all opportunities for manifesting, in an impressive manner, both his personal ascendancy over human fears and weakness, and the dignity of what he believed to be his divine mission. It took him away in his full grandeur and glory, like the setting of the tropical sun, at a moment when senile decay might be looked upon as close at hand. He calculated

that his defence and bearing on his trial would be the most emphatic lesson which he could possibly read to the youth of Athens ; more emphatic probably than the sum total of those lessons which his remaining life might suffice to give, if he shaped his defence otherwise. This anticipation of the effect of the concluding scene of his life, setting the seal on all his prior discourses, manifests itself in portions of his concluding words to the Dikasts, wherein he tells them that they will not, by putting him to death, rid themselves of the importunity of the cross-examining Elenchus ; that numbers of young men, more restless and obtrusive than he, already carried within them that impulse, which they would now proceed to apply, his superiority having hitherto kept them back. It was thus the persuasion of Sokrates that his removal would be the signal for numerous apostles putting forth with increased energy that process of interrogatory test and spur to which he had devoted his life, and which doubtless was to him far dearer and more sacred than his life. Nothing could be more effective than his lofty bearing on his trial, for inflaming the enthusiasm of young men thus disposed ; and the loss of life was to him compensated by the missionary successors whom he calculated on leaving behind.

Under ordinary circumstances, Sokrates would have drunk the cup of hemlock in the prison, on the day after his trial. But it so happened that the day of his sentence was immediately after that on which the sacred ship started on its yearly ceremonial pilgrimage from Athens to Delos, for the festival of Apollo. Until the return of this vessel to Athens, it was accounted unholy to put any person to death by public authority. Accordingly, Sokrates remained in prison—and, we are pained to read, actually with chains on his legs—during the interval that this ship was absent, thirty days altogether. His friends and companions had free access to him, passing nearly all

their time with him in the prison ; and Krito had even arranged a scheme for procuring his escape, by a bribe to the gaoler. This scheme was only prevented from taking effect by the decided refusal of Sokrates to become a party in any breach of the law ; a resolution which we should expect as a matter of course after the line which he had taken in his defence. His days were spent in the prison in discourse respecting ethical and human subjects, which had formed the charm and occupation of his previous life ; it is to the last of these days that his conversation with Simmias, Kebes, and Phædon, on the immortality of the soul, is referred in the Platonic Dialogue called *Phædon*. Of that conversation the main topics and doctrines are Platonic rather than Sokratic. But the picture which the dialogue presents of the temper and state of mind of Sokrates during the last hours of his life is one of immortal beauty and interest, exhibiting his serene and even playful equanimity amidst the uncontrollable emotions of his surrounding friends—the genuine unenforced persuasion, governing both his words and his acts, of what he had pronounced before the Dikasts, that the sentence of death was no calamity to him—and the unabated maintenance of that earnest interest in the improvement of man and society, which had for so many years formed both his paramount motive and his active occupation. The details of the last scene are given with minute fidelity, even down to the moment of his dissolution ; and it is consoling to remark that the cup of hemlock (the means employed for executions by public order at Athens) produced its effects by steps far more exempt from suffering than any natural death which was likely to befall him. Those who have read what has been observed above respecting the strong religious persuasions of Sokrates, will not be surprised to hear that his last words, addressed to Krito immediately before he passed into a state of insensibility,

were—"Krito, we owe a cock to Æsculapius: discharge the debt, and by no means omit it."

Thus perished the *parens philosophiæ*—the first of ethical philosophers; a man who opened to Science both new matter, alike copious and valuable—and a new method, memorable not less for its originality and efficacy than for the profound philosophical basis on which it rests. Though Greece produced great poets, orators, speculative philosophers, historians, etc., yet other countries, having the benefit of Grecian literature to begin with, have nearly equalled her in these lines, and surpassed her in some. But where are we to look for a parallel to Sokrates, either in or out of the Grecian world? The cross-examining *Elenchus*, which he not only first struck out, but wielded with such matchless effect and to such noble purposes, has been mute ever since his last conversation in the prison; for even his great successor Plato was a writer and lecturer, not a colloquial dialectician. No man has ever been found strong enough to bend his bow; much less, sure enough to use it as he did. His life remains as the only evidence, but a very satisfactory evidence, how much can be done by this sort of intelligent interrogation; how powerful is the interest which it can be made to inspire—how energetic the stimulus which it can apply in awakening dormant reason and generating new mental power.

GROTE: *History of Greece.*

NOTES.—This also is a piece of majestic prose, and might, if you choose, be summarized shortly in two or three paragraphs such as you could refer to if any one asked you what you had been reading about.

### xxx

That the British infantry soldier is more robust than the soldier of any other nation can scarcely be

doubted by those who, in 1815, observed his powerful frame, distinguished amidst the united armies of Europe ; and notwithstanding his habitual excess in drinking, he sustains fatigue and wet and the extremes of cold and heat with incredible vigour. When completely disciplined, and three years are required to accomplish this, his port is lofty and his movements free, the whole world cannot produce a nobler specimen of military bearing : nor is the mind unworthy of the outward man. He does not indeed possess that presumptuous vivacity which would lead him to dictate to his commanders, or even to censure real errors, although he may perceive them ; but he is observant and quick to comprehend his orders, full of resources under difficulties, calm and resolute in danger, and more than usually obedient and careful of his officers in moments of imminent peril. It has been asserted that his undeniable firmness in battle is the result of a phlegmatic constitution uninspired by moral feeling. Never was a more stupid calumny uttered ! Napoleon's troops fought in bright fields where every helmet caught some beams of glory, but the British soldiers conquered under the cold shade of aristocracy. No honours awaited his daring, no dispatch gave his name to the applauses of his countrymen, his life of danger and hardship was uncheered by hope, his death unnoticed. Did his heart sink therefore ? Did he not endure with surpassing fortitude the sorest of ills, sustain the most terrible assaults in battle unmoved, overthrow with incredible energy every opponent, and at all times prove that, while no physical military qualification was wanting, the fount of honour was also full and fresh within him ! The result of a hundred battles and the united testimony of impartial writers of different nations have given the first place amongst the European infantry to the British ; but in a comparison between the troops of France and England, it would be unjust

not to admit that the cavalry of the former stands higher in the estimation of the world.

SIR W. NAPIER: *Peninsular War.*

NOTES.—Make close précis of the above in the ratio of 3 to 1. Give it a heading and sub-heading.

### XXXI

Mr. Arnold Dolmetsch, whose skilful hands made the delightful birthday gift of a clavichord for the Poet Laureate,\* has been making clavichords for more than thirty years. Born in France, his mother being a Frenchwoman and his father a Swiss, he came to London in the year that the Royal College of Music was opened, and finished at South Kensington the musical education he began at the Conservatoire in Brussels. It was not long before he started his musical career. For a number of years he was teacher of music at Dulwich College, and it was whilst he was at Dulwich that he made his first clavichord.

Standing before this beautiful instrument, the artist, a little picturesque, grey, poetic figure, explained how simple a way he has of producing beautiful things.

“ This,” he said, “ is the most beautiful wood I have been able to procure after great pains and going over a hundred blocks of walnut, and when I have been fortunate enough to get beautiful wood I don’t trick it ; I don’t spoil it in any way. We don’t use any varnish or any stain, not even beeswax, and we don’t polish with glass paper, another great point, because that is the curse of all modern woodwork. The wood is worked with the greatest care, with the finest tools, and it is a question of skill. This wood is alive, and it will go on improving in beauty with years.

\* Dr. Robert Bridges. The presentation was made in 1924.

"Moreover, we don't use veneer. The wood is polished simply with fine rubbing. I will tell you how I really finished this instrument. It is a secret. It is finished with the horsetail that grows in the marshes. Here is a bunch of it." He took from the wall a few sprigs of a dry silver-grey weed, and rubbed them on a piece of rough white wood, which became in a moment smooth and shiny. "Yes, smooth as satin," he agreed; "I give all my instruments a final rubbing with this, and after polishing with horsetail, the wood is slightly oiled with linseed oil and rubbed dry."

"The keys, as you see, are of ebony and ivory, the naturals ebony and the sharps ivory, the reverse of the piano, and the ebony is simply ebony, not stained, and the ivory is not bleached. We do not treat Nature at all. Look at the ivory keys of a piano. They are all of an even, crude whiteness, produced by bleaching. That is just like painting the lily. This ivory is not even in colour. Some of it is a little more yellow. It is natural ivory, unbleached, simply cut out of the tusk and used—and polished, of course. And then that gold you see on the front of the keys is really gold, not an ordinary gold paint or imitation, but real gold leaf."

"And that beautiful decoration," I asked, looking at the floral ornamentation of the sound board, "how was that worked?"

"The flowers," Mr. Dolmetsch said, "are just picked out of the garden and used as models by my wife, who has a great genius for adapting them into a decorative pattern. And we make our own paints. We grind the colours and mix with egg, just as they did for the pictures of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The paint is made for each occasion and used there and then, not squeezed out of tubes; we don't use tubes. And you see how beautiful is the effect of the flowers and the strings."

Mr. Dolmetsch pulled the clavichord into the sun-

light which was pouring into the room through the low, wide windows that overlook his Surrey garden. The strings made a sort of gold transparency over the flowers, preparing one for the most exquisite, the most delicate, the sweetest and the softest music one has ever heard.

"What is it I am playing?" Mr. Dolmetsch said, repeating a question, "merely an improvisation. I can make my own music just as I can make my own instruments. I make instruments primarily for my own pleasure. If I did not enjoy it I should not do it. I should be in an office, a bank manager perhaps, something which would pay a great deal better, for while you make beautiful works of art you never make money."

Mr. Dolmetsch was asked what influence this revival of interest in old instruments is likely to have on modern performances.

"Music," was his answer, "has come to a point where it cannot go farther on the same lines. You know perfectly well that for the last twenty years it has been continually increasing in volume of sound, in noise, and in the number of musicians who play in the orchestra. And it has got to such a pitch it can go no farther. All these big orchestras, these expensive instruments, this noise, drive music away from the home. These delicate little instruments do the reverse; they bring it back into the home."

The piano Mr. Dolmetsch does not like. "I agree," he said, "that music made for the piano ought to be played on the piano, but I do not like the music, and I do not like the piano. All the most beautiful music was written for the clavichord, the harpsichord, and the virginal, for something, in fact, not the piano, for something much more delicate."

"The clavichord has, of course, one disadvantage when you make comparisons with the piano. One of the great pleasures of piano players is to annoy their

neighbours. That is a thing you can't do with a clavichord. No clavichord can be heard outside the room in which it is played ; you might, perhaps, if you listened intently, hear a faint sound, but that is all.

*The Observer* (with acknowledgments).

NOTES.—The foregoing interesting description is not suitable for close précis, but you ought to be able to extract from it a description in the form of a short summary of the making of a Dolmetsch clavichord.

### XXXII

The first annual general meeting of Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries, Ltd., was held on the 20th inst. at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C. The Right Hon. Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., M.P. (the Chairman), who presided, after dealing with the accounts, said that the subsidiary companies had had a fairly successful year. Anthracite coal, being of a somewhat special character, had not been subjected to the same depression which steam coal had, and the collieries showed an output of over 780,000 tons for the year. In addition they had a very valuable merchanting business both in Swansea and in London—a very old-established business, which, of course, added to their profits. The companies employed nearly 5,000 men, and the wage bill was over £600,000. This was an interesting figure, when compared with the profit of £186,457, in view of the idea of many people that in industry generally the capitalist got all the money and the workmen got none. During the year a new wage agreement was made in the coal trade whereby an advance of 14 per cent. on the standard was agreed to. This cost the companies somewhere in the neighbourhood of £80,000 a year in increased wages, but it had not been possible as yet, either by reduction of costs or by increased prices, to compensate themselves for this

advance. In time, however, they hoped an equilibrium would again be established. The collieries had all been maintained in a good condition, and renewals, replacements, and ordinary developments had been charged to revenue.

They had acquired in the course of the financial year some new properties which were mentioned in the report. One of these was described as the Raven property, but this was really part of a coal taking of the North Amman Collieries adjoining and in close contact with one of their own pits, the Gellyceidrim Colliery—a coal which they could easily reach from the shaft which went down on their own property. As a matter of fact the coal had been reached quite recently and was now in process of development. It was a taking of some 200 acres of very first quality coal, and he was assured by the company's technical experts that it would prove of the very greatest value to them, extending the life of their property and increasing its output. They had also bought for 200,000 shares the property and equipment of the Cawdor and Cwmgorse Collieries, both of which were operating and making profits. With regard to that transaction, whereas it was part of the agreement that this company paid the dividend for the year on the shares thus issued, they only received the profits of those collieries for a relatively short period during the financial year. Those were two good collieries, and were important not merely in themselves, but because the company acquired at the same time a very large area of virgin anthracite coalfield, which they were now making plans to develop by the sinking of new pits—as well as the extension of what they already possessed—in order to enable them to increase their output.

On the information given him, their reserves now amounted to something like 80,000,000 tons—a very large figure indeed, seeing that their output to-day was in the neighbourhood of 800,000 tons per annum.

In the work upon which they were engaged they were assisted by a very first-rate technical staff, and everything was being done from the point of view of reducing costs and introducing any improvements that could be found either in this or other countries.

Referring to the company's exhibit at Wembley, the Chairman said that they demonstrated there a fact which was well known in South Wales, but which seemed to come as a surprise to a great many other people, namely, that anthracite coal could be burned just the same as any other kind of coal in an ordinary grate. It burned well and very economically; it required very little attention, and gave a very good heat.

When he was in Canada some twelve months ago he went into the question of the possibility of selling Welsh anthracite in that country, and they had since formed a company in conjunction with the F. P. Weaver Coal Co., of Montreal—a very large and go-ahead coal importing concern—in order to find a market for their product in the Dominion.

On the whole, the position of the company was fairly strong as far as the market was concerned, and the undertaking generally was in very good shape.

Mr. C. L. Dalziel (deputy-chairman) gave a résumé of the financial position of the subsidiary companies, pointing out that they had a clear balance of "quick" assets of £300,000 over liabilities.

The report was unanimously adopted.

*The Nation* (with acknowledgments).

NOTES.—This is a type of report often chosen for close précis in public examinations. It contains a good deal of dry padding, and the problem is to detach the fact which would make most appeal to the shareholders. Imagine you are a shareholder, and set down the facts in the order presented by the Chairman.

## CHAPTER VI.—CORRESPONDENCE AND PRÉCIS

**§ 15. Personal Letters.**—The charm of a personal letter lies in the expression of personality, in the form of the sentence, the turn of the phrase. Such a production is no subject for précis, though when some one who has the right asks us “what it is about” we may give a verbal summary of a letter of this kind. Consider the following letter of Thomas Hood the humorist to Sir Robert Peel after the grant of a Government pension. It contains his last pun, which was as feeble as his worn-out physical frame.

DEAR SIR,

We are not to meet in the flesh. Given over by my physicians and by myself, I am only kept alive by frequent instalments of mulled port wine. In this extremity I feel a comfort, for which I cannot refrain from again thanking you, with all the sincerity of a dying man,—and, at the same time, bidding you a respectful farewell.

Thank God my mind is composed and my reason undisturbed, but my race as an author is run. My physical debility finds no tonic virtue in a steel pen, otherwise I would have written one more paper—a forewarning one—against an evil, or the danger of it, arising from a literary movement in which I have had some share, a one-sided humanity, opposite to that Catholic Shakespearean sympathy, which felt with King as well as Peasant, and duly estimated the mortal temptations of both stations. Certain classes at the poles of Society are already too far asunder ; it should be the duty of our writers to draw

them nearer by kindly attraction, not to aggravate the existing repulsion, and place a wider moral gulf between Rich and Poor, with Hate on the one side and Fear on the other. But I am too weak for this task, the last I had set myself; it is death that stops my pen, you see, and not the pension.

God bless you, Sir, and prosper all your measures for the benefit of my beloved country.

We cannot précis this. It comes too near the heart.

**§ 16. Business and Official Letters.**—The following advertisement appeared in a daily paper :—

PROMINENT PUBLISHER requires TOWN TRAVELLER after Christmas. Age 30-35. Trade experience essential. Good salary and liberal commission. Apply in confidence by letter addressed to Box 35, care of this paper.

One of the letters received in reply to this advertisement ran as follows :—

DEAR SIR,

I have seen your Advertisement for a Town Traveller in this morning's issue of the *Daily Courant*, and beg to offer myself for the vacancy.

I am 32 years of age, and am considered to be of good appearance and address. For the past four years I have acted as Town Traveller to Messrs. Jones and Brown, and have handled their new works, which, as you know, are of a general literary character, with a certain number of books on advanced science. I am working amicably with my present employers, but as I am junior to several other travellers, and wish to marry, I am anxious to improve my position without undue loss of time.

If the above particulars should lead to a desire on your part for an interview, I shall be happy to call upon you at your time and convenience and to give you any further information which you may require.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES BIRD.

This letter was handed by the publisher to his secretary with nineteen others. The secretary took a sheet of foolscap and ruled it in headed columns as follows :—

	Name.	Age.	Present Firm.	Experience.	Reason for Changing.
I					
2					
3					

What entries did the secretary make on this sheet in connection with James Bird's application?

Did he make précis, notes, or summaries of the twenty letters?

#### EXERCISE XIV

- Give the substance of the following letter, written to a solicitor :—

DEAR SIR,

I have been recommended by my friend, Mr. Henry Morton of Newgate Street, to ask for your professional services in the following matter.

I wish to buy a dwelling-house—namely, 51 Flower Avenue, Radlett, Herts—and have already made preliminary arrangements with the builder and vendor, (2,807)

Mr. A. J. Fox of Elstree, who acts as his own agent. The price agreed upon is £1,300 for house and freehold, and the premises are to be ready for occupation at the end of July of the present year.

In this connection I have appealed to the Invincible Building Society of 35 Ludgate Hill, E.C., for an advance on mortgage, and after inspecting the premises this Society has offered me an advance of £900, payable with interest at 5 per cent. by quarterly instalments during a period of ten years. I am prepared to accept this offer, and to pay the usual expenses connected with the execution of the mortgage deed.

May I ask whether you will be good enough to take up the necessary negotiations with the Vendor and the Building Society for the acquisition of the property ? If so, I shall be glad to call upon you and to give you any further particulars which you may require. My own bankers are Lloyds, Cheapside Branch, and if you need a personal reference I shall be glad if you will kindly apply to Mr. Morton.

Faithfully yours,  
JOHN STOKES.

2. Let us suppose that, in this solicitor's office, letters of the above character are handed to a particular clerk whose duty is to attend to Mortgages and the Purchase of Property. He keeps a book of which the pages are ruled in columns with suitable headings. Show a page of this book, with the entries drawn from John Stokes's letter.
3. Study the following series of letters :—

MAPLE LODGE, DOWNHAM.

DEAR MR. BOWNS,

May I draw your attention to the following circumstances ? Yesterday afternoon your man was driving his light cart at very great speed along the lane before my house. The wheel collided with one of my gate-posts, partly dislodging it and breaking off a portion of the woodwork. It is now quite impossible to close the gate, and this is a great inconvenience to me, as you will readily understand, especially as my young children

habitually play in the garden and are inclined to run out into the road, as children will, when they lose their ball, unless the gate is kept locked. I should like to have your comments upon the situation at your early convenience.

With compliments,

Yours faithfully,

ANNIE SHIELDS.

35 HIGH STREET, DOWNHAM.

DEAR MADAM,

I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday, and thank you for the same. As soon as I read it I called in my man and read it over to him. He says it is true that he passed along by your house yesterday afternoon, and that the wheel of the light cart appeared to strike against something in passing. He denies, however, that he was driving at very great speed, and says that the pony shied as he came near your gate because it was frightened by the sound of a horn from your garden. He thinks this horn was blown by one of your children.

I do not wish to be unreasonable, but before going further I should like to have your further comments. Believe me, I am very sorry this has happened, but I have every reason to trust my man's word.

Yours obediently,

NICHOLAS BOWNS.

MAPLE LODGE, DOWNHAM.

DEAR SIR,

I am in receipt of your letter, and am very much surprised that you admit no responsibility for the damage done by your cart to my property. I happened to be at an upstairs window at the time, and know perfectly well that your man was driving furiously. His remark about the toy motor horn is foolish. It would be impossible to check my children's play because they might startle a passing horse.

I must ask you to undertake the repair of my gate, and shall be glad to hear that you have put the work in hand, or that you will pay any carpenter whom I might myself employ.

Yours faithfully,

ANNIE SHIELDS.

35 HIGH STREET, DOWNHAM.

MADAM,

I regret that I cannot undertake responsibility for the damage done to your gate.

Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS BOWNS.

MAPLE LODGE, DOWNHAM.

SIR,

I have placed the matter in the hands of my solicitor, from whom you will hear in due course.

Yours truly,

ANNIE SHIELDS.

Make a précis of the above series of letters in reported speech and in a single paragraph. Give a heading to the précis.

## CHAPTER VII.—SUMMARIZING LITERATURE

§ 17. **Grasp in Reading.**—The habit of making précis or summaries is very helpful in reading. At the end of a chapter the well-trained reader makes a pause for reflection on what has been read and his mind retains the substance but not the form ; he can set down a summary of the chapter from memory, but not a précis, for this would mean following the book more closely and spoiling his enjoyment of the manner in which it is written.

But this habit is not formed without much practice. Let us read together the following chapter from George Borrow's *Lavengro* :—

## CHAPTER II

I have been a wanderer the greater part of my life ; indeed I remember only two periods, and these by no means lengthy, when I was, strictly speaking, stationary. I was a soldier's son, and as the means of my father were by no means sufficient to support two establishments, his family invariably attended him wherever he went, so that from my infancy I was accustomed to travelling and wandering, and looked upon a monthly change of scene and residence as a matter of course. Sometimes we lived in barracks, sometimes in lodgings, but generally in the former, always eschewing the latter from motives of economy, save when the barracks were inconvenient and uncomfortable ; and they must have been highly so indeed to have discouraged us from entering them ; for though we were gentry (pray bear that in mind, gentle reader), gentry by birth, and incontestably so by my

father's bearing the commission of good old George the Third, we were not *fine gentry*, but people who could put up with as much as any genteel Scotch family who find it convenient to live on a third floor in London or on a sixth at Edinburgh and Glasgow. It was not a little that could discourage us : we once lived within the canvas walls of a camp, at a place called Pett, in Sussex ; and I believe it was at this place that occurred the first circumstance or adventure, call it which you will, that I can remember in connection with myself : it was a strange one, and I will relate it.

It happened that my brother and myself were playing one evening in a sandy lane, in the neighbourhood of this Pett camp ; our mother was at a slight distance. All of a sudden a bright yellow, and, to my infantine eye, beautiful and glorious object made its appearance at the top of the bank from between the thick quickset, and, gliding down, began to move across the lane to the other side, like a line of golden light. Uttering a cry of pleasure, I sprang forward, and seized it nearly by the middle. A strange sensation of numbing coldness seemed to pervade my whole arm, which surprised me the more as the object to the eye appeared so warm and sunlike. I did not drop it, however, but, holding it up, looked at it intently, as its head dangled about a foot from my hand. It made no resistance ; I felt not even the slightest struggle ; but now my brother began to scream and shriek like one possessed. "O mother, mother !" said he, "the viper ! my brother has a viper in his hand !" He then, like one frantic, made an effort to snatch the creature away from me. The viper now hissed amain, and raised its head, in which were eyes like hot coals, menacing, not myself, but my brother. I dropped my captive, for I saw my mother running towards me ; and the reptile, after standing for a moment nearly erect, and still hissing furiously, made off, and disappeared. The whole scene is now before me, as vividly as if it occurred yesterday—the gorgeous viper, my poor dear frantic brother, my agitated parent, and a frightened hen clucking under the bushes ; and yet I was not three years old.

It is my firm belief that certain individuals possess an inherent power, or fascination, over certain creatures, otherwise I should be unable to account for many feats

which I have witnessed, and, indeed, borne a share in, connected with the taming of brutes and reptiles. I have known a savage and vicious mare, whose stall it was dangerous to approach, even when bearing provender, welcome, nevertheless, with every appearance of pleasure, an uncouth, wiry-headed man, with a frightfully seamed face, and an iron hook supplying the place of his right arm, one whom the animal had never seen before, playfully bite his hair and cover his face with gentle and endearing kisses ; and I have already stated how a viper would permit, without resentment, one child to take it up in his hand, whilst it showed its dislike to the approach of another by the fiercest hissings. Philosophy can explain many strange things, but there are some which are a far pitch above her, and this is one.

I should scarcely relate another circumstance which occurred about this time but for a singular effect which it produced upon my constitution. Up to this period I had been rather a delicate child ; whereas almost immediately after the occurrence to which I allude I became both hale and vigorous, to the great astonishment of my parents, who naturally enough expected that it would produce quite a contrary effect.

It happened that my brother and myself were disporting ourselves in certain fields near the good town of Canterbury. A female servant had attended us, in order to take care that we came to no mischief ; she, however, it seems, had matters of her own to attend to, and, allowing us to go where we listed, remained in one corner of a field, in earnest conversation with a red-coated dragoon. Now it chanced to be blackberry time, and the two children wandered under the hedges, peering anxiously among them in quest of that trash so grateful to urchins of their degree. We did not find much of it, however, and were soon separated in the pursuit. All at once I stood still, and could scarcely believe my eyes. I had come to a spot where, almost covering the hedge, hung clusters of what seemed fruit, deliciously-tempting fruit —something resembling grapes of various colours, green, red, and purple. Dear me, thought I, how fortunate ! yet have I a right to gather it ? is it mine ? for the observance of the law of *meum* and *tuum* had early been impressed upon my mind, and I entertained, even at that

tender age, the utmost horror for theft ; so I stood staring at the variegated clusters, in doubt as to what I should do. I know not how I argued the matter in my mind ; the temptation, however, was at last too strong for me, so I stretched forth my hand and ate. I remember, perfectly well, that the taste of this strange fruit was by no means so pleasant as the appearance ; but the idea of eating fruit was sufficient for a child, and, after all, the flavour was much superior to that of sour apples, so I ate voraciously. How long I continued eating I scarcely know. One thing is certain, that I never left the field as I entered it, being carried home in the arms of the dragoon in strong convulsions, in which I continued for several hours. About midnight I awoke, as if from a troubled sleep, and beheld my parents bending over my couch, whilst the regimental surgeon, with a candle in his hand, stood nigh, the light feebly reflected on the white-washed walls of the barrack-room.

Another circumstance connected with my infancy, and I have done. I need offer no apology for relating it, as it subsequently exercised considerable influence over my pursuits. We were, if I remember right, in the vicinity of a place called Hythe, in Kent. One sweet evening, in the latter part of summer, our mother took her two little boys by the hand, for a wander about the fields. In the course of our stroll we came to the village church ; an old grey-headed sexton stood in the porch, who, perceiving that we were strangers, invited us to enter. We were presently in the interior, wandering about the aisles, looking on the walls, and inspecting the monuments of the notable dead. I can scarcely state what we saw ; how should I ? I was a child not yet four years old, and yet I think I remember the evening sun streaming in through a stained window upon the dingy mahogany pulpit, and flinging a rich lustre upon the faded tints of an ancient banner. And now once more we were outside the building, where, against the wall, stood a low-eaved pent-house, into which we looked. It was half filled with substances of some kind, which at first looked like large grey stones. The greater part were lying in layers ; some, however, were seen in confused and mouldering heaps, and two or three, which had perhaps rolled down from the rest, lay separately on the floor. "Skulls,

madam," said the sexton ; " skulls of the old Danes ! Long ago they came pirating into these parts : and then there chanced a mighty shipwreck, for God was angry with them, and He sunk them ; and their skulls, as they came ashore, were placed here as a memorial. There were many more when I was young, but now they are fast disappearing. Some of them must have belonged to strange fellows, madam. Only see that one ; why, the two young gentry can scarcely lift it ! " And, indeed, my brother and myself had entered the Golgotha, and commenced handling these grim relics of mortality. One enormous skull, lying in a corner, had fixed our attention, and we had drawn it forth. Spirit of old, what a skull was yon !

I still seem to see it, the huge grim thing ; many of the others were large, strikingly so, and appeared fully to justify the old man's conclusion that their owners must have been strange fellows ; but compared with this mighty mass of bone they looked small and diminutive, like those of pygmies ; it must have belonged to a giant, one of those red-haired warriors of whose strength and stature such wondrous tales are told in the ancient chronicles of the north, and whose grave-hills, when ransacked, occasionally reveal secrets which fill the minds of puny moderns with astonishment and awe. Reader, have you ever pored days and nights over the pages of Snorro ? probably not, for he wrote in a language which few of the present day understand, and few would be tempted to read him tamed down by Latin dragomans. A brave old book is that of Snorro, containing the histories and adventures of old northern kings and champions, who seemed to have been quite different men, if we may judge from the feats which they performed, from those of these days. One of the best of his histories is that which describes the life of Harald Haardraade, who, after manifold adventures by land and sea, now a pirate, now a mercenary of the Greek emperor, became King of Norway, and eventually perished at the battle of Stamford Bridge, whilst engaged in a gallant onslaught upon England. Now, I have often thought that the old Kemp, whose mouldering skull in the Golgotha at Hythe my brother and myself could scarcely lift, must have resembled in one respect at least this Harald, whom

Snorro describes as a great and wise ruler and a determined leader, dangerous in battle, of fair presence, and measuring in height just *five ells*,\* neither more nor less.

I never forgot the Daneman's skull ; like the apparition of the viper in the sandy lane, it dwelt in the mind of the boy, affording copious food for the exercise of imagination. From that moment with the name of Dane were associated strange ideas of strength, daring, and superhuman stature ; and an undefinable curiosity for all that is connected with the Danish race began to pervade me ; and if, long after, when I became a student, I devoted myself with peculiar zest to Danish lore and the acquirement of the old Norse tongue and its dialects, I can only explain the matter by the early impression received at Hythe from the tale of the old sexton, beneath the pent-house, and the sight of the Danish skull.

And thus we went on straying from place to place, at Hythe to-day, and perhaps within a week looking out from our hostel-window upon the streets of old Winchester, our motions ever in accordance with the "route" of the regiment, so habituated to change of scene that it had become almost necessary to our existence. Pleasant were these days of my early boyhood ; and a melancholy pleasure steals over me as I recall them. Those were stirring times of which I am speaking, and there was much passing around me calculated to captivate the imagination. The dreadful struggle which so long convulsed Europe, and in which England bore so prominent a part, was then at its hottest ; we were at war, and determination and enthusiasm shone in every face ; man, woman, and child were eager to fight the Frank, the hereditary, but, thank God, never dreaded enemy of the Anglo-Saxon race. "Love your country and beat the French, and then never mind what happens," was the cry of entire England. Oh, those were days of power, gallant days, bustling days, worth the bravest days of chivalry, at least ; tall battalions of native warriors were marching through the land ; there was the glitter of the bayonet and the gleam of the sabre ; the shrill squeak of the fife and loud rattling of the drum were heard in the streets of country towns, and the loyal shouts of the

\* Norwegian ells = about eight feet.

inhabitants greeted the soldiery on their arrival or cheered them at their departure. And now let us leave the upland, and descend to the sea-board ; there is a sight for you upon the billows ! A dozen men-of-war are gliding majestically out of port, their long buntins streaming from the top-gallant masts, calling on the skulking Frenchman to come forth from his bights and bays ; and what looms upon us yonder from the fog-bank in the east ? a gallant frigate towing behind her the long low hull of a crippled privateer, which but three short days ago had left Dieppe to skim the sea, and whose crew of ferocious hearts are now cursing their imprudence in an English hold. Stirring times those, which I love to recall, for they were days of gallantry and enthusiasm, and were moreover the days of my boyhood.

At the head of Borrow's chapter the following is printed :—

*Barracks and Lodgings—A Camp—The Viper—A Delicate Child—Blackberry Time—Meum and Tuum—Hythe—The Golgotha—Daneman's Skull—Superhuman Stature—Stirring Times—The Sea-Board.*

This is really a kind of summary, or we might call it a set of sub-headings, or rough notes on what the chapter is going to contain. Taking these notes as a basis we could write a short summary of the chapter in connected form sufficient to show what we had been reading about without any regard to the style of the writing.

The reader might, however, make a fuller summary of the chapter which would show that he had read the various paragraphs attentively and had fully grasped their contents. The first paragraph might be summarized in reported speech as follows :—

As George Borrow's father was a commissioned officer of George III., and of very moderate means, the author led a wandering life in his boyhood, living sometimes in barracks sometimes in lodgings of a modest kind,

though always "genteel." At one time he lived in a military camp at Pett, in Sussex, where he had his first adventure.

This is almost full enough to be called a précis of the paragraph, which might, if desired, be summarized even more shortly—for example:—

George Borrow's father being a British officer, the family led a wandering life, and it was while living in camp at Pett, in Sussex, that the boy had his first adventure.

The rest of the chapter might be summarized in a manner similar to one of the above examples; but the two degrees of abridgment ought not to be combined.

### EXERCISE XV

Deal similarly with the following chapter from *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens:—

### CHAPTER II

Thomas Gradgrind, sir. A man of realities. A man of facts and calculations. A man who proceeds upon the principle that two and two are four, and nothing over, and who is not to be talked into allowing for anything over. Thomas Gradgrind, sir—peremptorily Thomas—Thomas Gradgrind. With a rule and a pair of scales, and the multiplication table always in his pocket, sir, ready to weigh and measure any parcel of human nature, and tell you exactly what it comes to. It is a mere question of figures, a case of simple arithmetic. You might hope to get some other nonsensical belief into the head of George Gradgrind, or Augustus Gradgrind, or John Gradgrind, or Joseph Gradgrind (all supposititious, non-existent persons), but into the head of Thomas Gradgrind—no, sir!

In such terms Mr. Gradgrind always mentally introduced himself, whether to his private circle of acquaintance, or to the public in general. In such terms, no doubt, substituting the words "boys and girls" for "sir," Thomas Gradgrind now presented Thomas Gradgrind to the little pitchers before him, who were to be filled so full of facts.

Indeed, as he eagerly sparkled at them from the cellarage before mentioned, he seemed a kind of cannon loaded to the muzzle with facts, and prepared to blow them clean out of the regions of childhood at one discharge. He seemed a galvanizing apparatus, too, charged with a grim mechanical substitute for the tender young imaginations that were to be stormed away.

"Girl number twenty," said Mr. Gradgrind, squarely pointing with his square forefinger, "I don't know that girl. Who is that girl?"

"Sissy Jupe, sir," explained number twenty, blushing, standing up, and curtsying.

"Sissy is not a name," said Mr. Gradgrind. "Don't call yourself Sissy. Call yourself Cecilia."

"It's father as calls me Sissy, sir," returned the young girl in a trembling voice, and with another curtsy.

"Then he has no business to do it," said Mr. Gradgrind. "Tell him he mustn't. Cecilia Jupe. Let me see. What is your father?"

"He belongs to the horse-riding, if you please, sir."

Mr. Gradgrind frowned, and waved off the objectionable calling with his hand.

"We don't want to know anything about that, here. You mustn't tell us about that, here. Your father breaks horses, don't he?"

"If you please, sir, when they can get any to break, they do break horses in the ring, sir."

"You mustn't tell us about the ring, here. Very well, then. Describe your father as a horsebreaker. He doctors sick horses, I dare say?"

"Oh, yes, sir."

"Very well, then. He is a veterinary surgeon, a farrier, and horsebreaker. Give me your definition of a horse."

(Sissy Jupe thrown into the greatest alarm by this demand.)

" Girl number twenty unable to define a horse ! " said Mr. Gradgrind, for the general behoof of all the little pitchers. " Girl number twenty possessed of no facts, in reference to one of the commonest of animals ! Some boy's definition of a horse. Bitzer, yours."

The square finger, moving here and there, lighted suddenly on Bitzer, perhaps because he chanced to sit in the same ray of sunlight which, darting in at one of the bare windows of the intensely whitewashed room, irradiated Sissy. For the boys and girls sat on the face of the inclined plane in two compact bodies, divided up the centre by a narrow interval ; and Sissy, being at the corner of a row on the sunny side, came in for the beginning of a sunbeam, of which Bitzer, being at the corner of a row on the other side, a few rows in advance, caught the end. But, whereas the girl was so dark-eyed and dark-haired that she seemed to receive a deeper and more lustrous colour from the sun when it shone upon her, the boy was so light-eyed and light-haired that the self-same rays appeared to draw out of him what little colour he ever possessed. His cold eyes would hardly have been eyes, but for the short ends of lashes which, by bringing them into immediate contrast with something paler than themselves, expressed their form. His short-cropped hair might have been a mere continuation of the sandy freckles on his forehead and face. His skin was so unwholesomely deficient in the natural tinge, that he looked as though, if he were cut, he would bleed white.

" Bitzer," said Thomas Gradgrind, " your definition of a horse."

" Quadruped. Graminivorous. Forty teeth, namely twenty-four grinders, four eye-teeth, and twelve incisive. Sheds coat in the spring ; in marshy countries, sheds hoofs too. Hoofs hard, but requiring to be shod with iron. Age known by marks in mouth." Thus (and much more) Bitzer.

" Now girl number twenty," said Mr. Gradgrind, " you know what a horse is."

She curtsied again, and would have blushed deeper, if she could have blushed deeper than she had blushed all this time. Bitzer, after rapidly blinking at Thomas Gradgrind with both eyes at once, and so catching the

light upon his quivering ends of lashes that they looked like the antennæ of busy insects, put his knuckles to his freckled forehead, and sat down again.

The third gentleman now stepped forth. A mighty man at cutting and drying he was ; a government officer ; in his way (and in most other people's too), a professed pugilist ; always in training, always with a system to force down the general throat like a bolus, always to be heard of at the bar of his little Public-office, ready to fight All England. To continue in fistic phraseology, he had a genius for coming up to the scratch, wherever and whatever it was, and proving himself an ugly customer. He would go in and damage any subject whatever with his right, follow up with his left, stop, exchange, counter, bore his opponent (he always fought All England) to the ropes, and fall upon him neatly. He was certain to knock the wind out of common-sense, and render that unlucky adversary deaf to the call of time. And he had it in charge from high authority to bring about the great public-office Millennium, when Commissioners should reign upon earth.

"Very well," said this gentleman, briskly smiling, and folding his arms. "That's a horse. Now, let me ask you girls and boys, Would you paper a room with representations of horses ? "

After a pause, one half of the children cried in chorus, "Yes, sir ! " Upon which the other half, seeing in the gentleman's face that Yes was wrong, cried out in chorus, "No, sir ! "—as the custom is, in these examinations.

"Of course, no. Why wouldn't you ? "

A pause. One corpulent slow boy, with a wheezy manner of breathing, ventured the answer, Because he wouldn't paper a room at all, but would paint it.

"You *must* paper it," said the gentleman, rather warmly.

"You *must* paper it," said Thomas Gradgrind, "whether you like it or not. Don't tell *us* you wouldn't paper it. What do you mean, boy ? "

"I'll explain to you, then," said the gentleman, after another and a dismal pause, "why you wouldn't paper a room with representations of horses. Do you ever see horses walking up and down the sides of rooms in reality—in fact ? Do you ? "

"Yes, sir!" from one half. "No, sir!" from the other.

"Of course, no," said the gentleman, with an indignant look at the wrong half. "Why, then, you are not to see anywhere what you don't see in fact; you are not to have anywhere what you don't have in fact. What is called Taste is only another name for Fact."

Thomas Gradgrind nodded his approbation.

"This is a new principle, a discovery, a great discovery," said the gentleman. "Now, I'll try you again. Suppose you were going to carpet a room. Would you use a carpet having a representation of flowers upon it?"

There being a general conviction by this time that "No, sir!" was always the right answer to this gentleman, the chorus of No was very strong. Only a few feeble stragglers said Yes; among them Sissy Jupe.

"Girl number twenty," said the gentleman, smiling in the calm strength of knowledge.

Sissy blushed, and stood up.

"So you would carpet your room—or your husband's room, if you were a grown woman, and had a husband—with representations of flowers, would you?" said the gentleman. "Why would you?"

"If you please, sir, I am very fond of flowers," returned the girl.

"And is that why you would put tables and chairs upon them, and have people walking over them with heavy boots?"

"It wouldn't hurt them, sir. They wouldn't crush and wither, if you please, sir. They would be the pictures of what was very pretty and pleasant, and I would fancy——"

"Ay, ay, ay! But you mustn't fancy," cried the gentleman, quite elated by coming so happily to his point. "That's it! You are never to fancy."

"You are not, Cecilia Jupe," Thomas Gradgrind solemnly repeated, "to do anything of that kind."

"Fact, fact, fact!" said the gentleman. And "Fact, fact, fact!" repeated Thomas Gradgrind.

"You are to be in all things regulated and governed," said the gentleman, "by fact. We hope to have, before long, a board of fact, composed of commissioners of fact, who will force the people to be a people of fact, and of

nothing but fact. You must discard the word Fancy altogether. You have nothing to do with it. You are not to have, in any object of use or ornament, what would be a contradiction in fact. You don't walk upon flowers in fact ; you cannot be allowed to walk upon flowers in carpets. You don't find that foreign birds and butterflies come and perch upon your crockery ; you cannot be permitted to paint foreign birds and butterflies upon your crockery. You never meet with quadrupeds going up and down walls ; you must not have quadrupeds represented upon walls. You must use," said the gentleman, " for all these purposes, combinations and modifications (in primary colours) of mathematical figures which are susceptible of proof and demonstration. This is the new discovery. This is fact. This is taste."

The girl curtsied, and sat down. She was very young, and she looked as if she were frightened by the matter of fact prospect the world afforded.

" Now, if Mr. M'Choakumchild," said the gentleman, " will proceed to give his first lesson here, Mr. Gradgrind, I shall be happy, at your request, to observe his mode of procedure."

Mr. Gradgrind was much obliged. " Mr. M'Choakumchild, we only wait for you."

So Mr. M'Choakumchild began in his best manner. He and some one hundred and forty other schoolmasters had been lately turned at the same time, in the same factory, on the same principles, like so many pianoforte legs. He had been put through an immense variety of paces, and had answered volumes of head-breaking questions. Orthography, etymology, syntax, and prosody, biography, astronomy, geography, and general cosmography, the sciences of compound proportion, algebra, land-surveying and levelling, vocal music, and drawing from models, were all at the ends of his ten chilled fingers. He had worked his stony way into Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council's Schedule B, and had taken the bloom off the higher branches of mathematics and physical science, French, German, Latin, and Greek. He knew all about all the Watersheds of all the world (whatever they are), and all the histories of all the peoples, and all the names of all the rivers and mountains,

and all the productions, manners, and customs of all the countries, and all their boundaries and bearings on the two and thirty points of the compass. Ah, rather overdone, M'Choakumchild. If he had only learnt a little less, how infinitely better he might have taught much more!

He went to work in this preparatory lesson, not unlike Morgiana in the Forty Thieves—looking into all the vessels ranged before him, one after another, to see what they contained. Say, good M'Choakumchild: when from thy boiling store thou shalt fill each jar brim full by-and-by, dost thou think that thou wilt always kill outright the robber Fancy lurking within—or sometimes only maim him and distort him!

**§ 18. Summarizing a Book.**—It is a good plan to keep a notebook in which the owner can enter a summary of each book which has been read. The following is offered as a suggestion for the arrangement of a page in such a book:—

### Sard Harker. By John Masefield.

(Published Autumn 1924. Read January 1925.)

The title gives the name of the hero, who is chief mate of the *Pathfinder* under Captain Cary. In 1897 he was at Las Palomas, on the coast of South America, a port of the sugar country. While waiting for his ship to sail he visits a prize-fight with Captain Cary, and there learns of a plot to kidnap a young lady named Margarita Kingsborough, who is living with her brother Hilary in a lonely lodge near the town. He visits this house to warn the brother, and thus misses his ship. Kingsborough, who had not credited Harker's story, is then visited by a mysterious Mr. Brown, under whose direction he is overpowered while his sister is carried off.

Meanwhile Harker had been robbed of the bicycle he had borrowed to visit the Kingsboroughs, and set out on foot for the shore, thinking he might yet overtake his ship by means of the police boat. He loses his way in a forest swamp which almost sucks him under, and then

begins a strange, adventurous journey in which he meets with rum-runners, miners, and thieves, is imprisoned as a silver bandit, but escapes as if by a miracle, and wanders about among the foothills of the Sierra, hoping to reach the port of San Agostino, some two hundred miles from Las Palomas. On he wanders until, after further strange adventures and hairbreadth escapes, he comes out upon the summit of the Sierra and then descends to San Agostino, where he meets a friend and is given command of the *Yuba*, which he sails to Santa Barbara, the capital of the republic. Here he hears that the *Pathfinder* has become a total wreck, and strikes the trail of the man (Rafael Hirsch by name) who had kidnapped Miss Kingsborough, who had been the means of the loss of the *Pathfinder*, and whose love of power over the minds of other people had converted him into a kind of incarnate devil who glories in his wickedness. He makes his way into a house in the town, where he finds Miss Kingsborough in the hands of Hirsch, is tortured and almost done to death in her presence, but is rescued in the nick of time by his friend the Dictator, Dom Manuel, who has Hirsch and his confederates shot out of hand, the former having been his lifelong enemy and the means of the cruel death of his sweetheart, Carlotta. The story ends with the betrothal of Harker to Miss Kingsborough, whom he had met in England in his early youth.

## EXERCISE XVI

1. Write a summary of the last book you read.
2. Recall a story which you read some time ago, and make an attempt at a summary of its contents.
3. Can you gather any central idea from the foregoing summary of *Sard Harker*?
4. Does each of your own summaries emphasize a central idea?
5. Write a short prose summary of each of the following poems:—

## King John and the Abbot of Canterbury

### I

An ancient story I'll tell you anon  
 Of a notable prince who was called King John ;  
 And he ruled England with main and with might,  
 For he did great wrong, and maintained little right.

And I'll tell you a story, a story so merry,  
 Concerning the Abbot of Canterbury ;  
 How for his house-keeping and high renown,  
 They rode post for him to fair London town.

An hundred men, the king did hear say,  
 The abbot kept in his house every day ;  
 And fifty gold chains, without any doubt,  
 In velvet coats waited the abbot about.

“ How now, father abbot, I hear it of thee,  
 Thou keepest a far better house than me ;  
 And for thy house-keeping and high renown,  
 I fear thou work'st treason against my crown.”—

“ My liege,” quoth the abbot, “ I would it were known  
 I never spend nothing but what is my own ;  
 And I trust your grace will do me no deere,  
 For spending of my own true-gotten gear.”—

“ Yes, yes, father abbot, thy fault it is high,  
 And now for the same thou needest must die ;  
 For except thou canst answer me questions three,  
 Thy head shall be smitten from thy body.

“ And first,” quoth the king, “ when I'm in this stead,  
 With my crown of gold so fair on my head,  
 Among all my liegemen so noble of birth,  
 Thou must tell me to one penny what I am worth.

“ Secondly, tell me, without any doubt,  
How soon I may ride the whole world about ;  
And at the third question thou must not shrink,  
But tell me here truly what I do think.”—

“ O these are hard questions for my shallow wit,  
Nor I cannot answer your grace as yet.  
But if you will give me but three weeks’ space,  
I’ll do my endeavour to answer your grace.”—

“ Now three weeks’ space to thee I will give,  
And that is the longest time thou hast to live ;  
For if thou dost not answer my questions three,  
Thy lands and thy livings are forfeit to me.”

## II

Away rode the abbot all sad at that word,  
And he rode to Cambridge and Oxenford ;  
But never a doctor there was so wise  
That could with his learning an answer devise.

Then home rode the abbot of comfort so cold,  
And he met his shepherd a-going to fold ;  
“ How now, my lord abbot, you are welcome home ;  
What news do you bring us from good King John ? ”—

“ Sad news, sad news, shepherd, I must give,  
That I have but three days more to live ;  
For if I do not answer him questions three,  
My head will be smitten from my body.

“ The first is to tell him there in that stead,  
With his crown of gold so fair on his head,  
Among all his liegemen so noble of birth,  
To within one penny of what he is worth.

“ The second, to tell him, without any doubt,  
How soon he may ride the whole world about ;  
And at the third question I must not shrink,  
But tell him there truly what he does think.”—

“ Now cheer up, sir abbot, did you never hear yet  
That a fool he may learn a wise man wit ?  
Lend me horse and serving-men, and your apparel,  
And I'll ride to London to answer your quarrel.

“ Nay frown not, if it hath been told unto me  
I am like your lordship as ever may be ;  
And if you will but lend me your gown,  
There is none shall know us at fair London town.”—

“ Now horses and serving-men thou shalt have,  
With sumptuous array most gallant and brave,  
With crozier and mitre, and rochet and cope,  
Fit to appear 'fore our father the pope.”

### III

“ Now, welcome, sir abbot,” the king he did say,  
“ 'Tis well thou'st come back to keep thy day :  
For and if thou canst answer my questions three,  
Thy life and thy living both savèd shall be.

“ And first when thou seest me here in this stead,  
With my crown of gold so fair on my head,  
Among all my liegemen so noble of birth,  
Tell me to one penny what I am worth.”—

“ For thirty pence Our Saviour was sold  
In the olden days, as I have been told.  
And twenty-nine is the worth of thee,  
For I think thou art one penny worser than He.”

The king he laughed, and swore by St. Bittel,  
 " I did not think I had been worth so little !  
 —Now secondly tell me without any doubt  
 How soon I may ride this whole world about." —

" You must rise with the sun and ride with the same,  
 Until the next morning he rises again ;  
 And then your grace need not make any doubt  
 But in twenty-four hours you'll ride it about." —

The king he laughed, and swore by St. John,  
 " I did not think it could be gone so soon !  
 —Now from the third question thou must not shrink,  
 But tell me here truly what I do think." —

" Yea, that shall I do, and make your grace merry ;  
 You think I'm the Abbot of Canterbury ;  
 But I'm his poor shepherd as plain you may see,  
 That am come to beg pardon for him and for me." —

The king he laughed, and swore by the mass,  
 " I'll make thee lord abbot this day in his place ! " —  
 " Now nay, my liege, be not in such speed,  
 For alack ! I can neither write nor read." —

" Four nobles a week then I will give thee,  
 For this merry jest thou hast shewn unto me ;  
 And tell the old abbot when thou comest home,  
 Thou hast brought him a pardon from good King  
 John." —

### The Soldier's Dream

Our bugles sang truce, for the night-cloud had lowered,  
 And the sentinel stars set their watch in the sky ;  
 And thousands had sunk on the ground overpowered,—  
 The weary to sleep, and the wounded to die.

When reposing that night on my pallet of straw,  
 By the wolf-scaring fagot that guarded the slain,  
 At the dead of the night a sweet vision I saw,  
 And thrice ere the morning I dreamt it again.

Methought from the battlefield's dreadful array  
 Far far I had roamed, on a desolate track :  
 'Twas autumn,—and sunshine arose on the way  
 To the home of my fathers, that welcomed me back.

I flew to the pleasant fields traversed so oft  
 In life's morning march, when my bosom was  
 young ;  
 I heard my own mountain-goats bleating aloft,  
 And knew the sweet strain that the corn-reapers  
 sung.

Then pledged we the wine-cup, and fondly I swore  
 From my home and my weeping friends never to  
 part :

My little ones kissed me a thousand times o'er,  
 And my wife sobbed aloud in her fulness of heart :—

“ Stay, stay with us,—rest, thou art weary and  
 worn ; ”  
 And fain was their war-broken soldier to stay ;  
 But sorrow returned with the dawning of morn,  
 And the voice in my dreaming ear melted away.

THOMAS CAMPBELL.

## CHAPTER VIII.—ON MAKING NOTES

§ 19. "Chewing and Digesting."—In his essay entitled *Of Studies* Francis Bacon writes:—

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested: that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.

Among the books which the present-day student is obliged to chew and digest are his text-books of history, literature, geography, and science. The substance of these books must indeed be memorized, and so become part of the student's mental equipment, to be drawn upon when occasion demands. Many of these books are printed in a manner which helps the student to some extent to memorize their contents. Headings are given to paragraphs, and are printed in heavy type or italics. Important words and phrases are often picked out by the printer in a similar manner, and some readers underline other words and phrases in order to make them more impressive to the eye, and therefore more readily remembered.

There are many objections to underlining words and phrases in our text-books. It is a much better plan to make notes in a separate book; but really helpful notes cannot be drawn up without a great deal of care. It is not merely a matter of picking out the important facts or opinions, but of giving each page of the note-book an orderly and symmetrical appearance, so that the whole "brief abstract" will remain in the mind's eye after it has been conned a few times. Consider the following examples:—

## GOVERNMENT OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Great Britain is a constitutional monarchy, in which the ruling power is vested in the representatives of the people in the House of Commons, who are chosen anew for each Parliament. The House of Lords, whose members (except the elected representatives of the Scottish peerage) sit by right of birth or office, act as a check on the Commons. The King is the head of the Executive, whose acts are determined by the Cabinet or Committee of Ministers responsible to the Houses of Commons and Lords.

Ireland has been granted Home Rule, or the right to elect its own Parliament, and transact all local affairs. Separate Governments have been established for the Irish Free State and for Northern Ireland, which also sends representatives to the British Parliament.

## THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

In our world-wide search for food and raw materials our merchant adventurers have landed on many coasts. Very often we afterwards raised our flag over such areas. Partly by discovery and occupation, partly by conquest, partly by exchange or purchase, we built up a great empire extending over every quarter of the globe. The principal parts of the empire are now independent politically, and the British Empire has become the British Commonwealth of Nations. Many parts of this British Commonwealth of Nations are largely inhabited by British peoples. Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are countries of this kind. In other parts British people settle among the natives, who supply the labour necessary in developing the area. The Union of South Africa is such a part of the Commonwealth. In tropical lands and islands we have few permanent settlements. In such parts as India, Nigeria, and the Pacific Islands, white people are a small minority, chiefly employed as administrators, merchants, and traders.

**Notes****BRITISH ISLES**

*Government.* Constitutional Monarchy governed by

Parliament {

- 1. House of Commons : elected by the people.
- 2. House of Lords : hereditary or official.
- 3. King : hereditary head of Executive, advised by Cabinet responsible to Commons and Lords.

[Ireland (Home Rule)—Irish Free State, Northern Ireland.]

**Notes**

*British Commonwealth.* So-called British Empire built up by (1) conquest, (2) exchange, (3) purchase, (4) settlement.

**BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS** {

- 1. Dominion of Canada .
- 2. Commonwealth of Australia }
- 3. Dominion of New Zealand }
- 4. Union of South Africa : British, Boers, natives.
- 5. Empire of India : mainly native.
- 6. Tropical and sub-tropical colonies and dependencies.

Mainly British peoples.

### RAINFALL—DISTRIBUTION AND AMOUNT

We are prevented by the limitations of our space from describing in detail the distribution and amount of rainfall and the laws by which these are governed. It must suffice to say that they depend upon the currents of the atmosphere, the shape of the land surface, and the relative position of the seas. Thus in England winds from western to southern quarters often bring rain, because they have taken up moisture in passing over the Atlantic ; while winds from the east are commonly dry, because they have made a long journey overland, where their expenditure has much exceeded their receipts. Thus the annual rainfall in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire is about 23 inches, while on the lower grounds in Southern Lancashire it is at least 10 inches more. The rainfall is increased by hills rising in the path of moist air currents ; for instance, its annual average is nearly 38 inches at Manchester, and over 51 inches about the Woodhead reservoirs (800 feet above sea-level) on the western side of the Pennine range. Some regions of the earth, such as the Sahara and similar deserts, are almost rainless, while in others the fall is much greater than in any part of the British Isles ; though in some of the mountainous districts it may vary from 60 to 80 inches, and at Seathwaite in Borrowdale (the wettest place in Britain) it is slightly more than 129 inches. But the wettest place in the world, so far as our information goes, is Cherrapunji in the Khasia Hills, where the annual rainfall amounts to at least 472 inches, or nearly 40 feet, the larger part of which descends during the monsoon—that is, in about four months of the year. Here as much as 40.8 inches has been measured in a single day.

**Notes****RAINFALL—DISTRIBUTION AND AMOUNT**

Dependent upon

*(a) Air currents and nearness to sea.*

For example, W. and S.W. winds, from Atlantic, rainy (S. Lancs, 33"). E. winds, from Europe, drier (Norfolk and Cambs, 23").

*(b) Land contours.*

High lands in path of moist winds rainy (Manchester, 38"; Woodhead, west of Pennines, 57").

Mountainous lands in N.W. England, 60" to 80" (Seathwaite, 129").

*Extremes.*

Driest : Sahara and similar deserts.

Wettest : Cherrapunji in Khasia Hills, 472".

## ALEXANDER III. OF SCOTLAND

At this time all the Scottish isles, from Shetland to the Isle of Man, were in the possession of Norsemen, who were as troublesome to Scotland as they had ever been to England or Ireland. In some places, as at Caithness, they had settled on the mainland ; and they were always ready to join the enemies of the Scottish king, whether they were the English, or the wild Scots of Galloway, or the Highland Celts.

Alexander III. determined to subdue them. He sent a fleet and an army to the Hebrides, and all the chiefs who refused to own themselves vassals of the King of Scotland were driven out. They carried their complaints to Haco, King of Norway, their over-lord ; and he, ere long, entered the Firth of Clyde with a fleet of one hundred and sixty ships.

A storm drove many of them ashore near Largs ; and when the Norsemen landed to rescue them, Alexander fell upon them, and drove them to their ships with terrible slaughter.

Thus were the Western Isles united to the Scottish crown ; and there was peace between the Scots and the Norse, confirmed by the marriage of Alexander's daughter, Margaret, to Eric, the young King of Norway.

Unhappily for Scotland, this Alexander, who was a wise as well as a brave king, was cut off in the prime of his days. While riding along the Fife shore on a dark night, he fell over a cliff near Kinghorn, and was taken up dead (1286).

All his children had died before him ; but one grandchild survived him—Margaret, the daughter of Eric of Norway. So this tender Maid of Norway (as she was called) became Queen of Scotland in the fourth year of her age.

Edward I. of England, who had lately revived the

claim of his ancestors to the lordship of Scotland, proposed a marriage between his son and Margaret, with a view to the union of the two crowns.

A treaty was entered into for this purpose. But on her way from Norway to Scotland, the Maid of Norway died at Orkney (1290); and then began that struggle for the crown which laid Scotland for many years under the English yoke.

Twelve competitors for the Scottish crown now appeared, the chief of whom were Robert Bruce (the elder) and John Baliol. Edward got himself appointed umpire, and placed Baliol on the throne as a vassal of England.

### Notes

#### ALEXANDER III. OF SCOTLAND

##### *Conquest of Norsemen.*

Held Western Isles from Shetland to Isle of Man and parts of Caithness. Driven from Hebrides. Haco, King of Norway, in Firth of Clyde. Landed at Largs and defeated by Alexander. Peace concluded.

Margaret of Scotland = Eric, King of Norway.

|  
Maid of Norway, born 1282.

##### *Death of Alexander, and consequences.*

1286. Alexander killed at Kinghorn. Succeeded by Maid of Norway. Edward I. arranged to marry her to his son.

1290. Maid died at Orkney. Twelve claimants to throne—Robert Bruce and John Baliol included. Edward I., as umpire, chooses *John Baliol*.

## THE GREEK GOD

What, then, was actually the Greek god? In what way were these two ideas of human form and divine power credibly associated in the ancient heart, so as to become a subject of true faith, irrespective equally of fable, allegory, superstitious trust in stone, and demoniacal influence?

It seems to me that the Greek had exactly the same instinctive feeling about the elements that we have ourselves; that to Homer, as much as to Casimir de la Vigne, fire seemed ravenous and pitiless; to Homer, as much as to Keats, the sea-wave appeared wayward or idle, or whatever else it may be to the poetical passion. But then the Greek reasoned upon this sensation, saying to himself: "I can light the fire, and put it out; I can dry this water up, or drink it. It cannot be the fire or the water that rages, or that is wayward. But it must be something *in* this fire and *in* the water, which I cannot destroy by extinguishing the one, or evaporating the other, any more than I destroy myself by cutting off my finger; *I* was *in* my finger—something of me at least was; I had a power over it, and felt pain in it, though I am still as much myself when it is gone. So there may be a power in the water which is not water, but to which the water is as a body—which can strike with it, move in it, suffer in it, yet not be destroyed with it. This something, this Great Water Spirit, I must not confuse with the waves, which are only its body. *They* may flow hither and thither, increase or diminish. *That* must be indivisible—imperishable—a god. So of fire also; those rays which I can stop, and in the midst of which I cast a shadow, cannot be divine, nor greater than I. They cannot feel, but there may be something in them that feels—a glorious intelligence, as much nobler and more swift than mine, as these rays,

which are its body, are nobler and swifter than my flesh—the spirit of all light, and truth, and melody, and revolving hours.

### Notes

#### THE GREEK GOD

*How were human form and divine power associated as a matter of belief?*

Things given personal attributes—for example, *ravenous* fire, *idle* waves: but the actual flame or water under man's dominion.

Therefore some power *in* things like the spirit in a body—for example, a Great Water Spirit in waves, a Fire God in the flames.

## EXERCISE XVII

Make Notes on each of the following extracts :—

## I

I call therefore a complete and generous education, that which fits a man to perform justly, skilfully, and magnanimously all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war. And how all this may be done between twelve and one-and-twenty, less time than is now bestowed in pure trifling at grammar and sophistry, is to be thus ordered.

First, to find out a spacious house and ground about it fit for an academy, and big enough to lodge a hundred and fifty persons, whereof twenty or thereabout may be attendants, all under the government of one, who shall be thought of desert sufficient, and ability either to do all, or wisely to direct and oversee it done. This place should be at once both school and university, not needing a remove to any other house of scholarship, except it be some peculiar college of law, or physic, where they mean to be practitioners ; but as for those general studies which take up all our time from Lily to the commencing, as they term it, master of art, it should be absolute. After this pattern, as many edifices may be converted to this use as shall be needful in every city throughout this land, which would tend much to the increase of learning and civility everywhere. . . .

For their studies : first, they should begin with the chief and necessary rules of some good grammar, either that now used, or any better ; and while this is doing, their speech is to be fashioned to a distinct and clear pronunciation, as near as may be to the Italian, especially in the vowels. For we Englishmen, being far northerly, do not open our mouths in the

cold air wide enough to grace a southern tongue ; but are observed by all other nations to speak exceeding close and inward, so that to smatter Latin with an English mouth is as ill a hearing as law French. Next, to make them expert in the usefulest points of grammar, and withal to season them and win them early to the love of virtue and true labour, ere any flattering seducement or vain principle seize them wandering, some easy and delightful book of education would be read to them, whereof the Greeks have store, as Cebes, Plutarch, and other Socratic discourses. But in Latin we have none of classic authority extant, except the two or three first books of Quintilian, and some select pieces elsewhere.

But here the main skill and groundwork will be to temper them such lectures and explanations, upon every opportunity, as may lead and draw them in willing obedience, inflamed with the study of learning and the admiration of virtue ; stirred up with high hopes of living to be brave men, and worthy patriots, dear to God, and famous to all ages : that they may despise and scorn all their childish and ill-taught qualities, to delight in manly and liberal exercises, which he who hath the art and proper eloquence to catch them with, what with mild and effectual persuasions, and what with the intimation of some fear, if need be, but chiefly by his own example, might in a short space gain them to an incredible diligence and courage, infusing into their young breasts such an ingenuous and noble ardour, as would not fail to make many of them renowned and matchless men. At the same time, some other hour of the day, might be taught them the rules of arithmetic ; and soon after the elements of geometry, even playing, as the old manner was. After evening repast, till bedtime, their thoughts would be best taken up in the easy grounds of religion, and the story of scripture.

JOHN MILTON.

## II

**William I.—The Conqueror**

1066 A.D. to 1087 A.D.—21 years

William, after the Battle of Hastings, marched to London ; and was crowned on Christmas Day, 1066. He promised to rule according to the English laws, and was at first just and merciful ; but his subjects gave him much trouble by forming plots against his life ; and once, when he was in Normandy, they fixed on a day to destroy all the Normans in the country, as Ethelred had destroyed the Danes.

But William soon returned ; and, when he heard of it, began to act like a savage tyrant, carrying fire and sword through the country, and laying waste whole counties. Taking away the rich estates of the English, he gave them to his Norman followers, who promised in return to serve him in time of war. Thus began in England the Feudal System, or the custom of serving in war instead of paying rent (1085).

Three chief acts of his reign were these :—The Domesday Book was written, the Curfew Bell ordered, and the New Forest laid out.

The Domesday Book contained an account of every estate in England, with the name of its owner, and an account of the cultivated land, as well as of the rivers, forests, and lakes (1086).

The Curfew was a bell which he ordered to be rung in every parish at eight o'clock at night, as a signal for the people to put out their lights and fires.

The New Forest embraced all Hampshire, from Winchester to the sea. Here he destroyed sixty villages, and drove out all the inhabitants, in order to make it a fit place for hunting wild beasts.

The Conqueror had three sons, Robert, William, and

Henry. Robert raised a rebellion in France against his father ; and, being besieged in a castle, met him in single combat : for both being covered with armour, they did not know each other. Robert knocked his father off his horse, and would have killed him ; but the old king's helmet fell off, and Robert saw his face. He was so shocked that he fell down before his father, and implored his pardon for what he had done.

Some years after this, King William was besieging a town in France, when his horse, slipping on some hot ashes, began to plunge. The king, who had become very heavy, got bruised upon the saddle, which caused his death. He left the crown of England to his second son William, and that of Normandy to Robert.

## III

### Marine Life

“ Life is present everywhere throughout the mass of oceanic waters, from the equator to the poles, and from the surface down to the bottom at a depth of six English miles ” (over 5,000 fathoms). But in the oceans as well as on the lands plants and animals depend largely on the sun’s light and heat ; and, as we have seen, these are most favourable to life in the upper waters of the ocean. On the bed of the shallow seas seaweeds flourish. In those seas microscopic “ plankton,” which means all aquatic forms of life that are carried along unresistingly, are borne thither from deeper water by the ocean currents and drifts ; on these fishes feed. Marine life is richest over the Continental Shelf, and from these waters the bulk of our supply of fish is obtained.

Marine animals may be divided into those whose blood remains at a fairly constant temperature whatever the temperature of the surrounding water may be,

and those whose blood temperature is usually the same as that of the water in which they live. In the first, or *warm-blooded* class, are the air-breathing animals—not true fishes, but mammals adapted to an oceanic life—such as whales, porpoises, dolphins, seals, walruses, etc. To the latter, or *cold-blooded* class, belong the true fishes which form the greatest part of our marine food supplies. Of the latter class, some, like the herring, swim near the surface ; others, like the flounder, prefer the bottom. Shell-fish, such as lobsters, are protected by strong shells, and live among the rocks near the shore.

In tropical seas there is a much greater variety of fishes and marine life generally than in temperate regions. Flying fishes, which frequently fall aboard vessels during their flight, and other kinds, such as the sword-fish, are peculiar to warm areas, while sharks are found in all waters. Pearl oysters are obtained by divers off tropical coasts ; the coral polyp is found only in clear, salt, warm, moving, shallow waters, and cannot live in cold currents or opposite river mouths where the water is fresh and muddy.

Fresh-water rivers and lakes have a fauna of their own. The best-known varieties of fish are the trout, salmon, and eel. Salmon come up rivers in autumn to spawn ; eels seek the open ocean for that purpose, in the neighbourhood of the Sargasso Sea.

## IV

## Heavenly Bodies

**THE PLOUGH.**—The axis of the Earth points to a part of the heavens very close to a bright star of the second magnitude known as the Pole Star, which remains practically stationary in the heavens. But the Pole Star is not the most suitable object from

which to commence a study of the circumpolar stars. There is no question that the large constellation of *Ursa Major*, or the Great Bear—or a part of it—is the conspicuous object of the northern heavens. No one can mistake the seven stars known variously as the Plough, Charles's Wain, and—in America—the Dipper. These stars have been noted and observed from the earliest ages; they are referred to by Homer and Hesiod and in the Book of Job.

The Plough is seen to best advantage in autumn, when it is due north and comparatively low down in the heavens; there can then be no difficulty in identifying the group. The northern heavens are not



especially rich in bright stars, and in the autumn evenings the Plough is visible either slightly tilted to the north-west, due north, or slightly tilted to the north-east, according to the hour of the night or the time of the season. For instance, at ten o'clock in the beginning of October the Plough is directly north, a month later at the same hour it is slightly tilted to the north-east; but it is unnecessary here to mention the various days and hours on which the Plough is to be seen in different positions. Once the configuration of the constellation is implanted in the mind, there will be no difficulty in picking it out, whatever its position.

In the winter evenings, generally speaking, the Plough is in the north-east ascending in the heavens

As the hours pass on during the same evening, or as the season progresses at the same hour, the Plough rises higher and higher in the heavens until in spring it is practically in the zenith in the hours fitted for observation. This is the season when it is most difficult to recognize the Plough. If, however, we are familiar with it before, it is quite easy to identify the well-known figure high in the sky. In summer, the Plough is to be seen in the north-west, descending as the season advances.

On the whole it may safely be said that the autumn is the best season for a beginner, who knows nothing of the constellations and has never seen the Plough, to commence his studies. Obvious at all times, the Plough is absolutely unmistakable in the autumn evenings. There are seven stars in the constellation, six of which are, roughly speaking, of the second magnitude, and one of the fourth. Proceeding from the front of the Ploughshare backwards to the handle, the stars are designated by the first seven letters of the Greek alphabet—Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, and Eta. They are also known by Arabic names. Alpha is “Dubhe,” Beta is “Merak,” Gamma is “Phecdha,” Delta is “Megrez,” Epsilon is “Alioth,” Zeta is “Mizar,” and Eta is “Alkaid” or “Benetnasch.” Of these names, only the sixth, Mizar, is commonly used.

Two of the stars in the Plough call for special mention, Delta and Zeta. Delta is generally believed to have been at one time of the second magnitude, whereas it is now of the fourth, so it would seem to have decreased in brilliance. Zeta, generally known as Mizar, is a remarkable star. A keen eye can detect the fact that it is double, or rather that there is a faint companion star near. This little star is known as Alcor, and in the binocular the two make a striking spectacle. With a moderate telescope Mizar is seen to be itself double.

The Plough is only part of the constellation Ursa Major, but it is much the more conspicuous part. The remaining stars of the constellation are much fainter and much more difficult to trace.

**THE POLE STAR.**—Alpha and Beta of Ursa Major are known as "The Pointers," because a straight line joining these two stars points directly to the Pole Star. Once these two stars are known, it is impossible to mistake the Pole Star. It is noticeable as being the next conspicuous star in the line with the Pointers. As its name indicates, the Pole Star approximately marks the point in the heavens to which the Earth's axis points. To an observer at the North Pole, the Pole Star would appear almost exactly overhead; to an observer at the equator, it would seem almost exactly on the horizon. In our latitudes, the altitude of the Pole Star above the horizon varies with the latitude of the place from which it is observed. To the ordinary observer, the star seems stationary in the heavens, the one point around which the other stars describe circles. In reality its position does not exactly coincide with the celestial Pole; it actually describes a very small circle, and there are several stars nearer to the Pole, which are practically invisible without the aid of a binocular—the chief of these being Lambda of Ursa Minor, which is just visible to the unaided eye.

The Pole Star is the chief star of *Ursa Minor* or the Little Bear, and is also known as Alpha Ursae Minoris. The constellation Ursa Minor, like the more conspicuous Ursa Major, has seven principal stars. Proceeding in a curve from the Pole Star these are Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, and Beta; while Gamma and Eta form a square with Beta and Zeta. Beta and Gamma are the only noticeable stars of the constellation except the Pole Star.

## v

## Oliver Cromwell

The figure of Oliver Cromwell was, as is generally known, in no way prepossessing. He was of middle stature, strong and coarsely made, with harsh and severe features, indicative, however, of much natural sagacity and depth of thought. His eyes were grey and piercing ; his nose too large in proportion to his other features, and of a reddish hue.

His manner of speaking, when he had the purpose to make himself distinctly understood, was energetic and forcible, though neither graceful nor eloquent. No man could on such occasions put his meaning into fewer and more decisive words. But when, as it often happened, he had a mind to play the orator, for the benefit of people's ears, without enlightening their understanding, Cromwell was wont to invest his meaning, or that which seemed to be his meaning, in such a mist of words, surrounding it with so many exclusions and exceptions, and fortifying it with such a labyrinth of parentheses, that though one of the most shrewd men in England, he was, perhaps, the most unintelligible speaker that ever perplexed an audience. It has been long since said by the historian, that a collection of the Protector's speeches would make, with a few exceptions, the most nonsensical book in the world ; but he ought to have added, that nothing could be more nervous, concise, and intelligible than what he really intended should be understood.

It was also remarked of Cromwell, that, though born of a good family, both by father and mother, and although he had the usual opportunities of education and breeding connected with such an advantage, the fanatic democratic ruler could never acquire, or

else disdained to practise, the courtesies usually exercised among the higher classes in their intercourse with each other. His demeanour was so blunt as sometimes might be termed clownish, yet there was in his language and manner a force and energy corresponding to his character, which impressed awe, if it did not impose respect ; and there were even times when that dark and subtle spirit expended itself, so as almost to conciliate affection. The turn for humour, which displayed itself by fits, was broad, and of a low, and sometimes practical, character. Something there was in his disposition congenial to that of his countrymen—a contempt of folly, a hatred of affectation, and a dislike of ceremony, which, joined to the strong intrinsic qualities of sense and courage, made him in many respects not an unfit representative of the democracy of England.      SIR WALTER SCOTT.

## VI

### The Adorning of Athens under Perikles

The ostracism of Thucydides apparently took place about two years after the conclusion of the Thirty Years' Truce (443-442 B.C.), and it is to the period immediately following that the great Periklean works belong. The southern wall of the acropolis had been built out of the spoils brought by Kimon from his Persian expeditions ; but the third of the long walls connecting Athens with the harbour was the proposition of Perikles, at what precise time we do not know. The long walls originally completed (not long after the battle of Tanagra, as has already been stated) were two, one from Athens to Peiræus, another from Athens to Phalerum : the space between them was broad, and if in the hands of an enemy the communications with the Peiræus would be interrupted.

Accordingly, Perikles now induced the people to construct a third or intermediate wall, running parallel with the first wall to Peiræus, and within a short distance (seemingly near one furlong) from it: so that the communication between the city and the port was placed beyond all possible interruption, even assuming an enemy to have got within the Phaleric wall. It was seemingly about this time, too, that the splendid docks and arsenal in Peiræus, alleged by Isokrates to have cost one thousand talents, were constructed; while the town itself of Peiræus was laid out anew with straight streets intersecting at right angles. Apparently this was something new in Greece—the towns generally, and Athens itself in particular, having been built without any symmetry, or width, or continuity of streets. Hippodamus the Milesian, a man of considerable attainments in the physical philosophy of the age, derived much renown as the earliest town architect, for having laid out the Peiræus on a regular plan. The market place, or one of them at least, permanently bore his name—the Hippodamian *agôra*. At a time when so many great architects were displaying their genius in the construction of temples, we are not surprised to hear that the structure of towns began to be regularized also. Moreover, we are told that the new colonial town of Thurii, to which Hippodamus went as a settler, was also constructed in the same systematic form as to straight and wide streets.

The new scheme upon which the Peiræus was laid out was not without its value as one visible proof of the naval grandeur of Athens. But the buildings in Athens and on the acropolis formed the real glory of the Periklean age. A new theatre, termed the Odeon, was constructed for musical and poetical representations at the great Panathenaic solemnity. Next, the splendid temple of Athene, called the Parthenon, with all its masterpieces of decorative sculpture, friezes,

and reliefs ; lastly, the costly portals erected to adorn the entrance of the acropolis, on the western side of the hill, through which the solemn processions on festival days were conducted. It appears that the Odeon and the Parthenon were both finished between 445 and 437 B.C. ; the Propylæa somewhat later, between 437 and 431 B.C., in which latter year the Peloponnesian war began. Progress was also made in restoring or reconstructing the Erechtheion, or ancient temple of Athene Polias, the patron goddess of the city—which had been burnt in the invasion of Xerxes. But the breaking out of the Peloponnesian war seems to have prevented the completion of this, as well as of the great temple of Demeter, at Eleusis, for the celebration of the Eleusinian mysteries—that of Athene at Sunium, and that of Nemesis at Rhamnus. Nor was the sculpture less memorable than the architecture. Three statues of Athene, all by the hand of Pheidias, decorated the acropolis—one colossal, forty-seven feet high, of ivory, in the Parthenon ; a second of bronze, called the Lemnian Athene ; a third of colossal magnitude, also in bronze, called Athene Promachos, placed between the Propylæa and the Parthenon, and visible from afar off, even to the navigator approaching Peiræus by sea.

It is not, of course, to Perikles that the renown of these splendid productions of art belongs. But the great sculptors and architects, by whom they were conceived and executed, belonged to that same period of expanding and stimulating Athenian democracy, which likewise called forth creative genius in oratory, in dramatic poetry, and in philosophical speculation. One man especially, of immortal name—Pheidias—born a little before the battle of Marathon, was the original mind in whom the sublime ideal conceptions of genuine art appear to have disengaged themselves from the stiffness of execution, and adherence to a consecrated type, which marked the efforts of his

predecessors. He was the great director and superintendent of all those decorative additions whereby Perikles imparted to Athens a majesty such as had never before belonged to any Grecian city. The architects of the Parthenon and of the other buildings—Iktinus, Kallicrates, Korœbus, Mnesikles, and others—worked under his instructions, and he had besides a school of pupils and subordinates, to whom the mechanical part of his labours was confided. With all the great contributions which Pheidias made to the grandeur of Athens, his last and greatest achievement was far away from Athens—the colossal statue of Zeus, in the great temple of Olympia, executed in the years immediately preceding the Peloponnesian war. This stupendous work was sixty feet high, of ivory and gold, embodying in visible majesty some of the grandest conceptions of Grecian poetry and religion. Its effect upon the minds of all beholders, for many centuries successively, was such as never has been, and probably never will be, equalled in the annals of art, sacred or profane.

Considering these prodigious achievements in the field of art only as they bear upon Athenian and Grecian history, they are phenomena of extraordinary importance. When we learn the profound impression which they produced upon Grecian spectators of a later age, we may judge how immense was the effect upon that generation which saw them both begun and finished. In the year 480 B.C. Athens had been ruined by the occupation of Xerxes. Since that period the Greeks had seen, first, the rebuilding and fortifying of the city on an enlarged scale; next, the addition of Peiræus, with its docks and magazines; thirdly, the junction of the two by the long walls, thus including the most numerous concentrated population, wealth, arms, ships, etc., in Greece; lastly, the rapid creation of so many new miracles of art—the sculptures of Pheidias as well as the paintings of the

Thasian painter, Polygnotus, in the temple of Theseus, and in the portico called Poekile. Plutarch observes that the celerity with which the works were completed was the most remarkable circumstance connected with them ; and so it probably might be, in respect to the effect upon the contemporary Greeks. The gigantic strides by which Athens had reached her maritime empire were now immediately succeeded by a series of works which stamped her as the imperial city of Greece, gave to her an appearance of power even greater than the reality, and especially put to shame the old-fashioned simplicity of Sparta. The cost was doubtless prodigious, and could only have been borne at a time when there was a large treasure in the acropolis, as well as a considerable tribute annually coming in. If we may trust a computation which seems to rest on plausible grounds, it cannot have been much less than three thousand talents in the aggregate. The expenditure of so large a sum was of course a source of private gain to contractors, tradesmen, merchants, artisans of various descriptions, etc., concerned in it. In one way or another, it distributed itself over a large portion of the whole city. And it appears that the materials employed for much of the work were designedly of the most costly description, as being most consistent with the reverence due to the gods. Marble was rejected as too common for the statue of Athene, and ivory employed in its place. Even the gold with which it was surrounded weighed not less than forty talents. A large expenditure for such purposes, considered as pious towards the gods, was at the same time imposing in reference to Grecian feeling, which regarded with admiration every variety of public show and magnificence, and repaid with grateful deference the rich men who indulged in it. Perikles knew very well that the visible splendour of the city, so new to all his contemporaries, would cause her great power to

appear greater still, and would thus procure for her a real, though unacknowledged, influence—perhaps even an ascendancy—over all cities of the Grecian name. And it is certain that even among those who most hated and feared her, at the outburst of the Peloponnesian war, there prevailed a powerful sentiment of involuntary deference.   GEORGE GROTE.

[*N.B.—Notes on the foregoing extract ought to be accompanied by sketches.*]

## CHAPTER IX.—MORE MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISES

Make précis, notes, or summary in connection with each of the following :—

### 1. Of Revenge

Revenge is a kind of wild justice, which the more a man's nature runs to, the more ought law to weed it out. For as for the first wrong, it doth but offend the law ; but the revenge of that wrong putteth the law out of office.

Certainly in taking revenge a man is but even with his enemy ; but in passing it over he is superior ; for it is a prince's part to pardon. And Solomon, I am sure, saith, “ It is the glory of a man to pass by an offence.” That which is past is gone and irrevocable, and wise men have enough to do with things present and to come. Therefore they do but trifle with themselves that labour in past matters.

There is no man doth a wrong for the wrong's sake ; but thereby to purchase himself profit, or pleasure, or honour, or the like. Therefore why should I be angry with a man for loving himself better than me ? And if any man should do wrong merely out of ill-nature, why, yet it is but like the thorn or briar, which prick or scratch, because they can do no other.

The most tolerable sort of revenge is for those wrongs which there is no law to remedy ; but then let a man take heed the revenge be such as there is no

law to punish ; else a man's enemy is still beforehand, and it is two for one.

Some, when they take revenge, are desirous the party should know whence it cometh ; this is the more generous. For the delight seemeth to be not so much in doing the hurt as in making the party repent. But base and crafty cowards are like the arrow that flieth in the dark.

Cosmus, Duke of Florence, had a desperate saying against perfidious or neglecting friends, as if those wrongs were unpardonable. " You shall read," saith he, " that we are commanded to forgive our enemies ; but you never read that we are commanded to forgive our friends." But yet the spirit of Job was in a better tune. " Shall we," saith he, " take good at God's hands, and not be content to take evil also ? " And so of friends in a proportion.

This is certain, that a man that studieth revenge keeps his own wounds green, which otherwise would heal and do well. Public revenges are for the most part fortunate ; as that for the death of Cæsar, for the death of Pertinax, for the death of Henry III. of France, and many more, but in private revenges it is not so, nay, rather vindictive persons live the life of witches, who, as they are mischievous, so end they unfortunate.

FRANCIS BACON.

## 2. The Marseillese

But, to our minds, the noblest of all these moving phenomena is that of Barbaroux's " Six-hundred Marseillese who know how to die."

Prompt to the request of Barbaroux, the Marseillese Municipality has got these men together : on the fifth morning of July, the Townhall says, " *Marchez, abattez le Tyran*, March, strike down the Tyrant" ; and they, with grim appropriate " *Marchons*," are marching.

Long journey, doubtful errand ; *Enfants de la Patrie*, may a good genius guide you ! Their own wild heart and what faith it has will guide them : and is not that the monition of some genius, better or worse ? Five-hundred and Seventeen able men, with Captains of fifties and tens ; well armed all, musket on shoulder, sabre on thigh : nay they drive three pieces of cannon ; for who knows what obstacles may occur ? Municipalities there are, paralysed by War-minister ; Commandants with orders to stop even Federation Volunteers : good, when sound arguments will not open a Towngate, if you have a petard to shiver it ! They have left their sunny Phocean City and Sea-haven, with its bustle and its bloom : the thronging *Course*, with high-frondent Avenues, pitchy dock-yards, almond and olive groves, orange-trees on house-tops, and white glittering *bastides* that crown the hills, are all behind them. They wend on their wild way, from the extremity of French land, through unknown cities, toward an unknown destiny ; with a purpose that they know.

Much wondering at this phenomenon, and how, in a peaceable trading City, so many householders or hearth-holders do severally fling down their crafts and industrial tools ; gird themselves with weapons of war, and set out on a journey of six hundred miles, to "strike down the tyrant"—you search in all Historical Books, Pamphlets, and Newspapers, for some light on it : unhappily without effect. Rumour and terror precede this march ; which still echo on you ; the march itself an unknown thing. Weber, in the back-stairs of the Tuilleries, has understood that they were *Forcats*, Galley-slaves and mere scoundrels, these Marseillese ; that, as they marched through Lyons, the people shut their shops ;—also that the number of them was some Four Thousand. Equally vague is Blanc Gilli, who likewise murmurs about *Forcats* and danger of plunder. *Forcats* they were not ; neither

was there plunder or danger of it. Men of regular life, or the best-filled purse, they could hardly be ; the one thing needful in them was that they " knew how to die." Friend Dampmartin saw them, with his own eyes, march " gradually " through his quarters at Villefranche in the Beaujolais : but saw in the vaguest manner ; being indeed preoccupied, and himself minded for marching just then—across the Rhine. Deep was his astonishment to think of such a march, without appointment or arrangement, station or ration ; for the rest, it was " the same men he had seen formerly " in the troubles of the South ; " perfectly civil " ; though his soldiers could not be kept from talking a little with them.

So vague are all these ; *Moniteur, Histoire, Parlementaire* are as good as silent : garrulous History, as is too usual, will say nothing where you most wish her to speak ! If enlightened Curiosity ever get sight of the Marseilles Council-Books, will it not perhaps explore this strangest of Municipal procedures ; and feel called to fish-up what of the Biographies, creditable or discreditable, of these Five-hundred and Seventeen, the stream of Time has not yet irrevocably swallowed ?

As it is, these Marseilles remain inarticulate, undistinguishable in feature ; a blackbrowed Mass, full of grim fire, who wend there, in the hot sultry weather : very singular to contemplate. They wend ; amid the infinitude of doubt and dim peril ; they not doubtful ; Fate and Feudal Europe, having decided, come girdling in from without ; they, having also decided, do march within. Dusty of face, with frugal refreshment, they plod onwards ; unwearable, not to be turned aside. Such march will become famous. The Thought, which works voiceless in this black-browed Mass, an inspired Tyrtæan Colonel, Rouget de Lille, whom the Earth still holds, has translated into grim melody and rhythm ; in his *Hymn* or *March of the Marseilles* : luckiest musical-composition ever

promulgated. The sound of which will make the blood tingle in men's veins ; and whole Armies and Assemblages will sing it, with eyes weeping and burning, with hearts defiant of Death, Despot, and Devil.

One sees well, these Marseillese will be too late for the Federation Feast. In fact, it is not Champ-de-Mars Oaths that they have in view. They have quite another feat to do : a paralytic National Executive to set in action. They must " strike down " whatsoever " Tyrant " there may be who paralyses it ; strike and be struck ; and on the whole prosper, and know how to die.

CARLYLE : *French Revolution.*

### 3. Ariadne Deserted

There, upon Dia's ever-echoing shore,  
 Sweet Ariadne stood, in fond dismay,  
 With wild eyes watching the swift fleet, that bore  
     Her loved one far away.  
 And still she gazed incredulous ; and still,  
     Like one awaking from beguiling sleep,  
 Found herself standing on the beachy hill,  
     Left there alone to weep.  
 But the quick oars upon the waters flashed,  
     And Theseus fled, and not a thought behind  
 He left ; but all his promises were dashed  
     Into the wandering wind.  
 Far off she strains her melancholy eyes ;  
     And like a Mænad sculptured there in stone  
 Stands as in act to shout, for she espies  
     Him she once called her own.  
 Dark waves of care swayed o'er her tender soul ;  
     The fine-wove turban from her golden hair  
 Had fallen ; the outer robe no longer stole  
     Over the bosom fair.

Loose dropped the well-wrought girdle from her breast  
 That wildly struggled to be free : they lay  
 About her feet, and many a briny crest  
 Kissed them in careless play.  
 But nought she recked of turban then, and nought  
 Of silken garments flowing gracefully.  
 O Theseus ! far away in heart and thought  
 And soul, she hung on thee !

CATULLUS.

#### 4. Junius Brutus and his Sons

There were among the Roman youths several young men \* of no mean families, who during the kingly government (of the Tarquinii) had pursued their pleasures without any restraint, being of the same age with, and the companions of, the young Tarquinii, and used to living in princely style.

Longing for that freedom now that the rights of all were equalized, they complained that the liberty of others had been converted to their slavery : " that a king was a human being, from whom you can learn where right or where wrong may be necessary ; that there was room for favour and for kindness ; that he could be angry and could forgive ; that he knew the difference between a friend and an enemy ; that laws were a deaf, inexorable thing, more beneficial to the poor than the rich ; that they allowed of no relaxation or indulgence if you transgress bounds ; that it was a perilous state, amid so many human errors, to live solely by one's integrity."

The young men, having conspired to restore the Tarquinii, were condemned to die.

Their punishment was the more remarkable because

\* Among them the two sons of Junius Brutus, the consul.

the consulship imposed on the father the office of punishing his own children, and him who should have been removed as a spectator fortune assigned as the person to exact the punishment.

Young men of the highest quality stood tied to a stake, but the consul's sons attracted the eyes of all spectators from the rest as from persons unknown ; nor did the people pity them more on account of the severity of the punishment than on account of the horrid crime by which they had deserved it.

The consuls seated themselves in their tribunal, and the lictors were dispatched to inflict punishment. During all this time the looks and countenance of the father presented a touching spectacle, his feelings bursting forth occasionally during the performance of his duty.

TITUS LIVIUS.

## 5. University Rowing

A glorious afternoon at Ely favoured the racing yesterday, and there was a large crowd in the vicinity of the Adelaide Bridge ; in fact, the largest for many years. The river was still above normal, and the men had to row against a fairly strong stream.

The junior crews raced first over a shortened course of about a mile and a half, and with a cross wind the crew with the Ely station should have derived some benefit. As it turned out in each race, those having the Prickwillow Station won. The junior eights were started shortly after half-past two, and Wilkinson's crew at once got away with a lead, being the length of the forward canvas ahead at Chettishaw engine, whilst they were about the same distance up at Day's farmhouse after rowing half a mile. Each was then doing thirty strokes to the minute, which dropped slightly at the half-mile post from home, and here

Stokes tried to get his crew to respond to a spurt, but Wilkinson held them at bay, and lengthening out nicely towards the finish, won by three quarters of a length, the time being 10 min. 2 sec.

The senior crews rowed over a course of about two and three-quarter miles, and when they started the breeze had lightened considerably, so that there was very little in choice of stations. Wansbrough got his crew away with thirty-five strokes in the first minute, but Smith was a trifle less. The river Lark was reached in 3 min. 21 sec., with Wansbrough's crew having a useful advantage, and they had improved their position when they got to Chettisham engine in 7 min. 16 sec. Smith's crew were struggling against odds, and by the time Wansbrough reached Day's farmhouse in 9 min. 21 sec. there was a full length and a half daylight between the boats. Wansbrough was then setting only twenty-six strokes to the minute, but, try as Smith's crew would, they were unable to make any impression, and in the last mile Wansbrough's crew drew farther away. Nearing the finish the leaders quickened up splendidly, and, rowing thirty-four strokes in the last minute, they won easily by five lengths, the time being 16 min. 1 sec.

*Daily Paper.*

## 6. "Is" or "Will Be"

A North Ireland correspondent writes :—

"A few members of the Omagh Constitutional Club had a more or less interesting argument the other night with reference to the grammatical accuracy of the sentence : To-morrow *is* Saturday. Several members argued that this should be : To-morrow *will be* Saturday, and others upheld what they con-

sider to be the more modern rendering : To-morrow is Saturday. In my boyhood days in an elementary school here I certainly was taught that To-morrow *will be* was correct, but personally I have since recognized the change, and my own opinion tends towards the less pedantic To-morrow *is*. I should be glad if you would kindly give in your paper your views on the subject. The following examples have been quoted : Cowper writes : ' To-morrow is our wedding day,' and in Scripture we read : ' If God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is and to-morrow *is* cast into the oven.' In Tennyson's *Queen of the May* is the line : ' To-morrow *will be* the happiest day of all the glad New Year.' This was quoted against the argument in favour of ' *is*. ' "

A too slavish regard for grammatical rules, or neglect of exceptions, merely leads to bad or stilted English. " To-morrow *is* Saturday " is correct because it is universally accepted as good English. But the use of *is* should be confined to this or similar statements, as, for example, " To-morrow *is* my birthday." We ought not to say " To-morrow *is* a red-letter day " if we mean that events will make it one ; here *is* would be correct if we mean that it has already become one in the calendar. Similarly, " To-morrow *is* the happiest day of all the glad New Year " means that May Day is the happiest ; but if the speaker means (as the girl did mean) that to-morrow will also be the happiest for herself, by reason of its events, " *will be* " should be used. " *Is* " may be used of recurring occasions, as in the example quoted by Cowper. In the Bible sentence, where " to-day " refers to all to-days, and " to-morrow " to all to-morrows, *is* cast into the oven is correct.

" JACKDAW," *John o' London's Weekly*  
(with acknowledgments).

## 7. Water Action

At this place it will be convenient to mention two cases, in one of which the action of water, speaking in general terms, is wholly mechanical, in the other wholly chemical. Earth-pillars are the best examples of the former. These are pinnacles of a stiff, stony clay, capped by a cushion-like boulder. Occasionally they are isolated ; more often they form linear groups. Two very noted examples occur in upland valleys a few miles from Botzen in the Italian Tyrol. A little examination shows that they have been carved out of a much larger mass of clay by runlets of rain as they hurried down either side of the valley towards the central stream. In fine weather the path of these is dry and the clay is hard ; after heavy rain it is softened and a little stream runs down every furrow. The bigger boulders act like an umbrella and protect the clay beneath from being washed away, but when one falls off the unprotected pinnacle is gradually destroyed. In the Alps these earth-pillars often vary from about 4 to 8 yards in height, but in some places, as in the Sierra Nevada, they are much more lofty. But they may also be, and are so frequently, on quite a small scale. Such miniature pillars, often only one or two inches high, may sometimes be found in our own Islands ; in fact they may be looked for whenever a rather stiff clay contains fairly flat bits of stone.

Sand-pipes, as they are called, are the best instances of the direct chemical action of water. These occur most frequently in chalk, but are occasionally found in other limestones, where they also have been covered with a sandy gravel. Into the latter rain water has sunk, has made its way down to the chalk, and has begun to dissolve this, at some "vulnerable" point, forming a cup-like hollow. As this is gradually

deepened it is kept filled by sand or gravel slipping from above, and may thus be prolonged downwards to a depth of several feet, while it is also enlarged sideways, though much more slowly.

## 8. Lord Halifax

Among the statesmen of those times Halifax was, in genius, the first. His intellect was fertile, subtle, and capacious. His polished, luminous, and animated eloquence, set off by the silver tones of his voice, was the delight of the House of Lords. His conversation overflowed with thought, fancy, and wit. His political tracts well deserve to be studied for their literary merit, and fully entitle him to a place among English classics. To the weight derived from talents so great and various he united all the influence which belongs to rank and ample possessions. Yet he was less successful in politics than many who enjoyed smaller advantages. Indeed, those intellectual peculiarities which make his writings valuable frequently impeded him in the contests of active life. For he always saw passing events, not in the point of view in which they commonly appear to one who bears a part in them, but in the point of view in which, after the lapse of many years, they appear to the philosophic historian. With such a turn of mind, he could not long continue to act cordially with any body of men. All the prejudices, all the exaggerations, of both the great parties in the State moved his scorn. He despised the mean arts and unreasonable clamour of demagogues. He despised still more the doctrines of divine right and passive obedience. He sneered impartially at the bigotry of the Churchman and at the bigotry of the Puritan. He was equally unable to comprehend how any man should object to Saints' days and surplices,

and how any man should persecute any other man for objecting to them. In temper he was what, in our time, is called a Conservative ; in theory he was a Republican. Even when his dread of anarchy and his disdain for vulgar delusions led him to side for a time with the defenders of arbitrary power, his intellect was always with Locke and Milton. Indeed, his jests upon hereditary monarchy were sometimes such as would have better become a member of the Calf's Head Club than a Privy Councillor of the Stuarts. In religion he was so far from being a zealot that he was called by the uncharitable an atheist ; but this imputation he vehemently repelled ; and in truth, though he sometimes gave scandal by the way in which he exerted his rare powers both of reasoning and of ridicule on serious subjects, he seems to have been by no means unsusceptible of religious impressions.

He was the chief of those politicians whom the two great parties contemptuously called Trimmers. Instead of quarrelling with this nickname, he assumed it as a title of honour, and vindicated, with great vivacity, the dignity of the appellation. Everything good, he said, trims between extremes. The temperate zone trims between the climate in which men are roasted and the climate in which they are frozen. The English Church trims between the Anabaptist madness and the Papal lethargy. The English Constitution trims between Turkish despotism and Polish anarchy. Virtue is nothing but a just temper between propensities any one of which, if indulged in excess, becomes vice. Nay, the perfection of the Supreme Being himself consists in the exact equilibrium of attributes, none of which could preponderate without disturbing the whole moral and physical order of the world. Thus Halifax was a Trimmer on principle. He was also a Trimmer by the constitution both of his head and of his heart. His under-

standing was keen, sceptical, inexhaustibly fertile in distinctions and objections ; his taste refined, his sense of the ludicrous exquisite ; his temper placid and forgiving, but fastidious, and by no means prone either to malevolence or to enthusiastic admiration. Such a man could not long be constant to any band of political allies. . . .

He had greatly distinguished himself in opposition, and had thus drawn on himself the royal displeasure, which was indeed so strong that he was not admitted into the Council of Thirty without much difficulty and long altercation. As soon, however, as he had obtained a footing at court, the charm of his manner and of his conversation made him a favourite. He was seriously alarmed by the violence of the public discontent. He thought that liberty was for the present safe, and that order and legitimate authority were in danger. He therefore, as was his fashion, joined himself to the weaker side. Perhaps his conversion was not wholly disinterested. For study and reflection, though they had emancipated him from many vulgar prejudices, had left him a slave to vulgar desires. Money he did not want ; and there is no evidence that he ever obtained it by any means which in that age even severe censors considered as dishonourable ; but rank and power had strong attractions for him. He pretended, indeed, that he considered titles and great offices as baits which could allure none but fools, that he hated business, poimp and pageantry, and that his dearest wish was to escape from the bustle and glitter of Whitehall to the quiet woods which surrounded his ancient mansion in Nottinghamshire ; but his conduct was not a little at variance with his professions. In truth, he wished to command the respect at once of courtiers and of philosophers, to be admired for attaining high dignities, and to be at the same time admired for despising them.

LORD MACAULAY.

## 9. Dr. Johnson and Fanny Burney

When we were summoned to dinner, Mrs. Thrale made my father and me sit on each side of her. I said that I hoped I did not take Dr. Johnson's place ; —for he had not yet appeared.

“ No,” answered Mrs. Thrale, “ he will sit by you, which I am sure will give him great pleasure.”

Soon after we were seated, the great man entered. I have so true a veneration for him, that the very sight of him inspires me with delight and reverence, notwithstanding the cruel infirmities to which he is subject ; for he has almost perpetual convulsive movements, either of his hands, lips, feet, or knees, and sometimes of all together.

Mrs. Thrale introduced me to him, and he took his place. We had a noble dinner, and a most elegant dessert. Dr. Johnson, in the middle of dinner, asked Mrs. Thrale what was in some little pies that were near him.

“ Mutton,” answered she, “ so I don't ask you to eat any, because I know you despise it.”

“ No, madam, no,” cried he, “ I despise nothing that is good of its sort, but I am too proud now to eat of it. Sitting by Miss Burney makes me very proud to-day ! ”

“ Miss Burney,” said Mrs. Thrale, laughing, “ you must take great care of your heart if Dr. Johnson attacks it ; for I assure you he is not often successful.”

“ What's that you say, madam ? ” cried he. “ Are you making mischief between the young lady and me already ? ”

A little while after he drank Mrs. Thrale's health and mine, and then added :

“ 'Tis a terrible thing that we cannot wish young

ladies well without wishing them to become old women!"

"But some people," said Mr. Seward, "are old and young at the same time, for they wear so well that they never look old."

"No, sir, no," cried the Doctor, laughing; "that never yet was; you might as well say they are at the same time tall and short. I remember an epitaph to that purpose, which is in——"

(I have quite forgot what,—and also the name it was made upon, but the rest I recollect exactly:)

. . . lies buried here;  
So early wise, so lasting fair,  
That none, unless her years you told,  
Thought her a child, or thought her old.

Mrs. Thrale then repeated some lines in French, and Dr. Johnson some more in Latin. An epilogue of Mr. Garrick's to *Bonduca* was then mentioned, and Dr. Johnson said it was a miserable performance, and everybody agreed it was the worst he had ever made.

"And yet," said Mr. Seward, "it has been very much admired: but it is praise of English valour, and so I suppose the subject made it popular."

"I don't know, sir," said Dr. Johnson, "anything about the subject, for I could not read on till I came to it; I got through half a dozen lines, but I could observe no other subject than eternal dulness. I don't know what is the matter with David; I am afraid he is grown superannuated, for his prologues and epilogues used to be incomparable."

"Nothing is so fatiguing," said Mrs. Thrale, "as the life of a wit; he and Wilkes are the two oldest men of their ages I know, for they have both worn themselves out by being eternally on the rack to give entertainment to others."

"David, madam," said the Doctor, "looks much

older than he is ; for his face has had double the business of any other man's ; it is never at rest ; when he speaks one minute, he has quite a different countenance to what he assumes the next. I don't believe he ever kept the same look for half an hour together in the whole course of his life ; and such an eternal, restless, fatiguing play of the muscles must certainly wear out a man's face before its real time."

" O yes," cried Mrs. Thrale, " we must certainly make some allowance for such wear and tear of a man's face."

FANNY BURNEY: *Diary*.

## 10. A Scene from "Richard III"

*The Tower of London.*

*Enter BUCKINGHAM, DERBY, HASTINGS, the BISHOP OF ELY, RATCLIFF, LOVEL, with others, and take their seats at a table.*

*Hast.* My lords, at once : the cause why we are met  
Is, to determine of the coronation.

*In God's name, speak :* when is the royal day ?

*Buck.* Are all things fitting for that royal time ?

*Der.* It is, and wants but nomination.

*Ely.* To-morrow then I judge a happy day.

*Buck.* Who knows the lord protector's mind herein ?  
Who is most inward with the noble duke ?

*Ely.* Your grace, we think, should soonest know his  
mind.

*Buck.* Who, I, my lord ! We know each other's  
faces,

But for our hearts, he knows no more of mine  
Than I of yours ;

Nor I no more of his, than you of mine.

Lord Hastings, you and he are near in love.

*Hast.* I thank his grace, I know he loves me well ;  
 But, for his purpose in the coronation,  
 I have not sounded him, nor he delivered  
 His gracious pleasure any way therein :  
 But you, my noble lords, may name the time ;  
 And in the duke's behalf I'll give my voice,  
 Which, I presume, he'll take in gentle part.

*Enter GLOUCESTER.*

*Ely.* Now in good time, here comes the duke himself.

*Glou.* My noble lords and cousins all, good morrow.  
 I have been long a sleeper ; but, I hope,  
 My absence doth neglect no great designs,  
 Which by my presence might have been concluded.

*Buck.* Had not you come upon your cue, my lord,  
 William Lord Hastings had pronounced your part,—  
 I mean, your voice,—for crowning of the king.

*Glou.* Than my Lord Hastings no man might be  
 bolder ;  
 His lordship knows me well, and loves me well.

*Hast.* I thank your grace.

*Glou.* My Lord of Ely !

*Ely.* My lord ?

*Glou.* When I was last in Holborn,  
 I saw good strawberries in your garden there :  
 I do beseech you send for some of them.

*Ely.* Marry, and will, my lord, with all my heart.

[*Exit.*]

*Glou.* Cousin of Buckingham, a word with you.

[*Drawing him aside.*]

Catesby hath sounded Hastings in our business,  
 And finds the testy gentleman so hot,  
 As he will lose his head ere give consent  
 His master's son, as worshipful he terms it,  
 Shall lose the royalty of England's throne.

*Buck.* Withdraw you hence, my lord, I'll follow you.

[*Exit GLOUCESTER, BUCKINGHAM following.*]

*Der.* We have not yet set down this day of triumph.  
To-morrow, in mine opinion, is too sudden ;  
For I myself am not so well provided  
As else I would be, were the day prolonged.

*Re-enter BISHOP OF ELY.*

*Ely.* Where is my lord protector ? I have sent for  
these strawberries.

*Hast.* His grace looks cheerfully and smooth to-day ;  
There's some conceit or other likes him well,  
When he doth bid good Morrow with such a spirit.  
I think there's never a man in Christendom  
That can less hide his love or hate than he ;  
For by his face straight shall you know his heart.

*Der.* What of his heart perceive you in his face  
By any likelihood he showed to-day ?

*Hast.* Marry, that with no man here he is offended ;  
For, were he, he had shown it in his looks.

*Der.* I pray God he be not, I say.

*Re-enter GLOUCESTER and BUCKINGHAM.*

*Glou.* I pray you all, tell me what they deserve  
That do conspire my death with devilish plots  
Of damned witchcraft, and that have prevailed  
Upon my body with their hellish charms ?

*Hast.* The tender love I bear your grace, my lord,  
Makes me most forward in this noble presence  
To doom the offenders, whatsoever they be :  
I say, my lord, they have deserved death.

*Glou.* Then be your eyes the witness of this ill :  
See how I am bewitched ; behold, mine arm  
Is like a blasted sapling, withered up :  
And this is Edward's wife, that monstrous witch,  
Consorted with that hateful woman Shore,  
That by their witchcraft thus have marked me.

*Conceit.* Idea, thought.

*Hast.* If they have done this thing, my gracious lord,—

*Glou.* If ! thou protector of this hateful woman, Tellest thou me of “ ifs ” ? Thou art a traitor : Off with his head ! Now, by Saint Paul I swear, I will not dine until I see the same.

*Lovel* and *Ratcliff*, look that it be done : The rest that love me, rise and follow me.

[*Exeunt all but HASTINGS, RATCLIFF, and LOVEL.*]

*Hast.* Woe, woe for England ! not a whit for me ; For I, too fond, might have prevented this. Stanley did dream the boar did raze his helm ; But I disdained it, and did scorn to fly : Three times to-day my foot-cloth horse did stumble, And startled, when he looked upon the Tower, As loath to bear me to the slaughter-house. O, now I want the priest that spake to me : I now repent I told the pursuivant, As 'twere triumphing at mine enemies, How they at Pomfret bloodily were butchered, And I myself secure in grace and favour. O Margaret, Margaret, now thy heavy curse Is lighted on poor Hastings' wretched head !

*Rat.* Dispatch, my lord ; the duke would be at dinner :

Make a short shrift ; he longs to see your head.

*Hast.* O momentary grace of mortal men, Which we more hunt for than the grace of God ! Who builds his hopes in air of your fair looks, Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast, Ready, with every nod, to tumble down Into the fatal bowels of the deep.

*Lov.* Come, come, dispatch ; 'tis bootless to exclaim.

*Hast.* O bloody Richard ! miserable England ! I prophesy the fearfull'st time to thee That ever wretched age hath looked upon. Come, lead me to the block ; bear him my head : They smile at me that shortly shall be dead. [*Exeunt.*]

## II. The Rise of the King's English

**RESTORATION OF ENGLISH.**—The authoritative restoration of English as the language of public business in the law courts (1362) and in schools (1385) marks an important stage in its history. These two steps were a public admission that English had made out its claim to be regarded as the national speech. Hitherto it had been degraded and disinherited ; now it was restored to its rightful place. The object of the Normans had been to force the French tongue on the English people ; but after a trial lasting for two centuries it was seen that the effort had failed, and it was very wisely abandoned.

**FATE OF THE DIALECTS.**—The particular form of English that became the standard book speech was the East Midland dialect. The Northern dialect, as we shall see presently, became the book speech of Scotland. The Southern dialect fell out of use about the end of the fourteenth century. Almost the last to use it as a book speech was John of Trevisa, a Gloucestershire canon, who wrote in it a translation from the Latin of Ralph Higden's *History of the World*, called *Polychronicon*. To him we are indebted for the interesting fact about the English tongue just mentioned. He says : “ The yer of oure Lord a thousandd thre hondred foure score and fyve,— of the secunde Kyng Richard after the conquest, nyne,— in al the gramer scoles of Engleland children leveth Freynsch and construeth and lurneth an Englisch.” The plural ending *-eth* marks this passage as Southern English. Though Southern English thus ceased to be a book speech, it never quite died out as a spoken dialect. It has lingered till our own day in Dorsetshire ; and the Rev. William Barnes has shown its capacity for literary uses by publishing a volume of *Poems Written in the Dorsetshire Dialect (1847-62)*.

**THE STANDARD DIALECT.**—Several causes led to the adoption of the East Midland dialect as the standard book speech. The most obvious of these was its geographical position, between the North and the South. It borrowed features from both of the other dialects, and gradually came to be understood by those who spoke them. As regards grammatical complexity also, it occupied an intermediate position, having more inflections than the Northern and fewer than the Southern dialect. It was thus of the nature of a compromise—a common ground on which all might meet. It was also superior to the Northern speech, and not inferior to the Southern, in being enriched by an Anglo-French element. There were, however, other causes of the Midland supremacy: one was the fact of its being the speech first of Cambridge and then of Oxford—the two universities; another was its being the speech of London—the capital, and the seat of the court; a third was the circumstance that several great writers arose who made that speech classical. It was, in short, the language used in the best society and by the best writers. The chief writers who used it were Geoffrey Chaucer and John Gower. Their contemporaries Langland and Wyclif wrote dialects; but Chaucer wrote English that all Englishmen could understand. It was standard English.

**THE KING'S ENGLISH.**—As this standard English was the language of the court and the court poets, it has been called the King's English. Gower and Chaucer were friends, and they both were friends of persons about the royal court. Chaucer was connected with the court in one way or another during the greater part of his life, and was often sent by the king on special missions to Italy and France. There was good reason, then, for calling the language in which he wrote King's English.

## 12. Lady Lisle and Elizabeth Gaunt

*ALICE LISLE and ELIZABETH GAUNT, condemned to death for sheltering the adherents of MONMOUTH, converse in prison before their execution.*

*Lady Lisle.* Madam, I am confident you will pardon me ; for affliction teaches forgiveness.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* From the cell of the condemned we are going, unless my hopes mislead me, where alone we can receive it. Tell me, I beseech you, lady ! in what matter or manner do you think you can have offended a poor sinner such as I am. Surely we come into this dismal place for our offences ; and it is not here that any can be given or taken.

*Lady Lisle.* Just now, when I entered the prison, I saw your countenance serene and cheerful ; you looked upon me for a time with an unaltered eye : you turned away from me ; as I fancied, only to utter some expressions of devotion, and again you looked upon me, and tears rolled down your face. Alas ! that I should by any circumstance, any action or recollection, make another unhappy. Alas ! that I should deepen the gloom in the very shadow of death.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* Be comforted : you have not done it. Grief softens and melts and flows away with tears.

I wept because another was greatly more wretched than myself. I wept at that black attire ; at that attire of modesty and of widowhood.

*Lady Lisle.* It covers a wounded, almost a broken heart : an unworthy offering to our blessed Redeemer.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* In His name let us now rejoice ! Let us offer our prayers and our thanks at once together ! We may yield up our souls perhaps at the same hour.

*Lady Lisle.* Is mine so pure ? Have I bemoaned as I should have done the faults I have committed ? Have my sighs arisen for the unmerited mercies of my God ? and not rather for him, the beloved of my heart, the adviser and sustainer I have lost !

Open, O gates of death !

Smile on me, approve my last action in this world, O virtuous husband ! O saint and martyr ! my brave, compassionate, and loving Lisle !

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* And cannot you too smile, sweet lady ? are not you with him even now ? Doth body, doth clay, doth air, separate and estrange free spirits ? Bethink you of his gladness, of his glory ; and begin to partake them. O ! how could an Englishman, how could twelve, condemn to death, condemn to so great an evil as they thought it, and may find it, this innocent and helpless widow !

*Lady Lisle.* Blame not *that* jury ! blame not the jury which brought against me the verdict of guilty. I was so : I received in my house a wanderer who had fought under the rash and giddy Monmouth. He was hungry and thirsty, and I took him in. My Saviour had commanded, my king had forbidden it.

Yet the twelve would not have delivered me over to death unless the judge had threatened them with an accusation of treason in default of it. Terror made them unanimous : they redeemed their properties and lives at the stated price.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* I hope at least the unfortunate man, whom you received in the hour of danger, may avoid his penalty.

*Lady Lisle.* Let us hope it.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* I too am imprisoned for the same offence ; and I have little expectation that he who was concealed by me hath any chance of happiness, although he hath escaped. Could I find the means of conveying to him a small pittance, I should leave the world the more comfortably.

*Lady Lisle.* Trust in God ; not in one thing or another, but in all. Resign the care of this wanderer to *His* guidance.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* He abandoned that guidance.

*Lady Lisle.* Unfortunate ! how can money then avail him ?

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* It might save him from distress and despair, from the taunts of hard-hearted and from the inclemency of the godly.

*Lady Lisle.* In godliness, O my friend ! there can not be inclemency.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* You are thinking of perfection, my dear lady ; and I marvel not at it ; for what else hath ever occupied your thoughts ! But godliness, in almost the best of us, often is austere, often uncompliant and rigid, proner to reprove than to pardon, to drag back or thrust aside than to invite and help onward.

Poor man ! I never knew him before : I cannot tell how he shall endure his self-reproach, or whether it will bring him to calmer thoughts hereafter.

*Lady Lisle.* I am not a busy idler in curiosity ; nor, if I were, is there time enough left me for indulging in it ; yet gladly would I learn the history of events, at the first appearance so resembling those in mine.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* The person's name I never may disclose ; which would be the worst thing I could betray of the trust he placed in me. He took refuge in my humble dwelling, imploring me in the name of Christ to harbour him for a season. Food and raiment were afforded him unsparingly ; yet his fears made him shiver through them. Whatever I could urge of prayer and exhortation was not wanting ; still, although he prayed, he was disquieted. Soon came to my ears the declaration of the king, that his majesty would rather pardon a rebel than the concealer of a rebel. The hope was a faint one : but it was a hope ; and I gave it him. His thanksgivings

were now more ardent, his prayers more humble, and oftener repeated. They did not strengthen his heart ; it was unpurified and unprepared for them. Poor creature ! he consented with it to betray me ; and I am condemned to be burnt alive. Can we believe, can we encourage the hope, that in his weary way through life he will find those only who will conceal from him the knowledge of this execution ? Heavily, too heavily, must it weigh on so irresolute and infirm a breast.

*Let it not move you to weeping.*

*Lady Lisle.* It does not : oh ! it does not.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* What then ?

*Lady Lisle.* Your saintly tenderness, your heavenly tranquillity.

*Elizabeth Gaunt.* No, no ; abstain ! abstain ! It was I who grieved : it was I who doubted. Let us now be firmer : we have both the same rock to rest upon. See ! I shed no tears. I saved his life, an unprofitable and (I fear) a joyless one : he, by God's grace, has thrown open to me, and at an earlier hour than ever I ventured to expect it, the avenue to eternal bliss.

*Lady Lisle.* O my good angel ! that bestrewest with fresh flowers a path already smooth and pleasant to me, may those timorous ones who have prosecuted us, be conscious on their death-beds that we have entered it ! And they too will at last find rest.

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# ENGLISH, SPOKEN AND WRITTEN

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for Pupils of 11 to 15

By RICHARD WILSON, B.A., D.Litt.

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## CONTENTS

### FIRST SECTION—ANALYSIS AND GRAMMAR:

I. BREAKING-UP AND BUILDING-UP . . . . .	9
II. SUBJECT, PREDICATE, AND OBJECT . . . . .	19
III. THE NON-SIMPLE SENTENCE . . . . .	25
IV. ANALYSIS INTO WORDS . . . . .	35
V. THE IDEA OF THE NOUN . . . . .	39
VI. THE IDEA OF THE VERB . . . . .	50
VII. THE IDEA OF THE PRONOUN AND OF CASE . . . . .	66
VIII. GRAMMATICAL AGREEMENT . . . . .	73
IX. ADJUNCTS OF THE NOUN (OR PRONOUN) . . . . .	77
X. ADJUNCTS OF THE VERB . . . . .	88
XI. THE PREPOSITION AND INTERJECTION . . . . .	93
XII. MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS . . . . .	100

### SECOND SECTION—THE SHORT STORY:

XIII. TALES RETOLD . . . . .	106
XIV. PICTURE STORIES . . . . .	119
XV. THE RACONTEUR . . . . .	123

### THIRD SECTION—CONVERSATION AND DEBATE

XVI. FAMILIAR TALK . . . . .	128
XVII. THE DEBATER . . . . .	136

### FOURTH SECTION—GRASPING THE SUBJECT:

XVIII. PRÉCIS AND SUMMARIES . . . . .	142
XIX. THE NOTE-BOOK . . . . .	152

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS AND EXER- CISES . . . . .	158
SENTENCES FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION . . . . .	171
A REFERENCE SUMMARY OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR . . . . .	173

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## CONTENTS

### FIRST SECTION—FORMS OF EXPRESSION

I. THE SHORT PARAGRAPH . . . . .	11
II. ON BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS . . . . .	21
III. ON JARGON, CIRCUMLOCUTION, AND PAD-DING . . . . .	31
IV. ON THE PAUSE AND PUNCTUATION . . . . .	37
V. THE WRITER AND THE READER . . . . .	53
VI. ON ORDER AND SEQUENCE . . . . .	60
VII. EXPRESSION BY LETTER . . . . .	68
VIII. ON KEEPING A DIARY . . . . .	79
IX. DIALOGUE AND DRAMA . . . . .	84
X. ON ANSWERING QUESTIONS . . . . .	96
XI. ON EXPRESSION BY TALKING . . . . .	100
XII. EXPRESSION IN VERSE . . . . .	108
XIII. EXPRESSION BY DRAWING . . . . .	135
XIV. A COLLECTION OF DONT'S . . . . .	148

### SECOND SECTION—LITERARY EXAMPLES OF EXPRESSION

SELECTED ESSAYS . . . . .	155
SELECTED LETTERS . . . . .	190
EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES AND JOURNALS . . . . .	211
SELECTED DIALOGUES . . . . .	233
SELECTED SPEECHES . . . . .	243







